

UNA-Westchester Global Connection



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF THE USA (UNA-USA) WESTCHESTER CHAPTER

Volume 1, Issue 2

<http://www.unawestchester.org>

April 2018

CALLING ALL MEMBERS! PLEASE ATTEND!

UNA-Westchester Annual Meeting

Sunday, April 29, 2018, 3:30-5:30 (registration opens 3:30)

Community Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 468 Rosedale Ave., White Plains, NY 10605

Cosponsored by Alpha Kappa Sorority, Inc., and The Community Unitarian Universalist Congregation

“The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) at 70 Years: Its Place in Westchester History”



Margaret K. Bruce

Eleanor Roosevelt



- A tribute to Molly Bruce,* UNA-USA leader at a local and national levels, who helped draft the Declaration with Eleanor Roosevelt
- Election of officers and directors
- A brief review of UNA-Westchester’s annual highlights by Marcia Brewster
- Youth from the Somers schools system’s academic program, *Rock Your World*, will present their creative responses to the UDHR.
- A countywide challenge to respond to the UDHR will also be announced.
- Recognition of Mercy College’s Model UN team, award-winning delegation at National Model UN Conference
- Reception with refreshments

The event is free and open to the public! Please bring your ideas and your friends!

Please register at unawestchester.org

*Margaret K. Bruce, known to everyone as Molly, was a distinguished and beloved figure in the history of the United Nations. She was born in England, educated at Cambridge University and came to New York in 1946 as a young UN Secretariat staff member. She joined the Human Rights Division and worked with Eleanor Roosevelt during the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Molly was a stalwart leader of UNA-USA, in Westchester chapter and nationally; she died in 2012 at the age of 94.

UNA-USA WESTCHESTER CHAPTER ANNUAL REPORT, May 1, 2017-April 30, 2018

MESSAGE FROM THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT

I have been honored to serve as the chapter's president for the last seven years and, along with the other officers, have bitter-sweet feelings as we step down because of term limits. While we appreciate the importance of bringing new people to leadership roles for the chapter, we also feel that the work of UNA-USA needs the support of all of us right now. Three of the officers who are stepping down will remain on the board in some capacity for the coming term, but we are very sad to lose the long-term support and high-quality performance of our Secretary, Scott Monje, and Nominations and Membership Chair, Marcia Wallace. Thank you both for all you have done for the UNA-Westchester chapter.



The United Nations Association-USA, including the Westchester Chapter, has been challenged this year to support the work of the United Nations, where much of its important work—on climate change, refugees, the environment, clean water, clean energy, and poverty—is being undermined by our own government. In fact, the decline in the approved budget of the UN by \$285 million is considered a great victory by the U.S. administration. UNA-Westchester and its members need to stand firm against this assault on the concrete achievements of the UN, such as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in

2015. UNA-USA's Global Engagement Summit on February 23, 2018, attended by over 1,500 people and held in the General Assembly Hall, was an indication of the importance of the United Nations to most Americans, especially students. UNA-Westchester and all its members will need renewed strength to advocate for U.S. leadership at the United Nations and to protect and support the valuable work of the UN under assault by the U.S. administration.

The well-attended events organized by our chapter for UN Day in October, focused on "Global Goals, Local Leaders," and for International Women's Day in March, recognizing local women leaders, demonstrated what we can each do to achieve the SDGs at the local level. UNA-Westchester and its partners, the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. (AKA), have also pledged to support the UNA-USA national initiative, Adopt-A-Future, which aims to support schools in refugee camps in Kenya, in response to the request from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The Southern New York State Division, including our chapter, has adopted the Gambela Primary School at Kakuma Refugee Camp for support and has invited Ambassador Bob Jalang'o, former Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations to be the division's liaison to the camp. We had fund-raisers for this initiative on World Refugee Day (June 20) and in honor of Human Rights day (December 7).

Thank you to all our board members and chapter members for their support to me personally over the past several years. I have appreciated the harmony and cooperation from everyone.

—Marcia Brewster

UNA-USA LEADERSHIP SUMMIT, WASHINGTON D.C.

President Marcia Brewster, Vice President Brenda L. G. Smith and UNA-Westchester member Aicha Bargo (for the Young Professionals) attended the UNA-USA Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C., in June 2017. The conference took place at the National Education Association on June 11–13 and included a day of lobbying on Capitol Hill. There

were several high-profile speakers whom we considered inspiring, in particular Peter Thomson, President of the General Assembly; Andrew Gilmour, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights; and Peter Yeo, Director of the Better World Fund. 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 in Washington on June 10–12, 2018. See the photos and coverage [HERE](#).

Chris Whatley, UNA-USA's executive director in Washington, has been an effective advocate for UNA-USA's initiatives and we were thrilled to have him as a speaker at our Annual Meeting in 2017. He also provided key leadership at the Global Engagement Summit in February. Membership in UNA-USA now tops 22,000 nationwide, one third of whom are students.

UNA-WESTCHESTER BOARD (2017–2018)

In May 2017, the five officers were not up for election, as they were in the middle of two-year terms. Those who will be completing their terms in June 2018 are: Marcia Brewster, President; Brenda L. G. Smith, Vice President; Scott Monje, Secretary; David R. Finch, Treasurer; and Marcia Wallace, Nominations Committee. They have reached term limits and will be stepping down. We reelected three directors for the Class of 2019: J. Yuhanna Edwards, Martha Perez, and Lilli Schindler, and elected two new directors, Ambassador Bob Jalang'o and Patrick Sciaratta. Four directors continued their terms through June 2018: Myrna Anover, Mary Seward Downes, Karen Rockwell El-Badry, and Joan Katen.

We are indeed fortunate to have had such a wonderful board of directors over the past several years. 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 in any given month. All UNA-USA members are welcome to attend.

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

As Advocacy Cochairs, Professor Joan Katen and former Councilman J. Yuhanna Edwards believe that the best way to advocate for the United Nations is through education of the American public about the significant work done by the UN and the importance of engaging with other nations to foster

a peaceful world. If things do not go our way, we can't force others to vote with us. We have to make our positions clear to other nations and, in turn, really understand their positions. Thus, as advocacy cochairs, we will continue to convey to the community and to our representatives in Washington the positive and important things the UN does, by our written and spoken word—and we invite all of our members to do the same. Each year the United Nations feeds 80 million people, helps millions of refugees fleeing war-torn countries, and vaccinates 40% of the world's children. UN peacekeepers stand between civilians and violence. Many who see the blue armbands of the peacekeepers feel relief that protection is near. The UN is always poised to help with tents, food, water, and other necessities when disaster strikes.

This year, we, in the Advocacy Committee, were asked to support the UNA-USA national campaign Adopt-A-Future. Our chapter and the Southern New York State Division have adopted the Gambela Primary School in the Kakuma Refugee camp in northwestern Kenya. The camp was originally built to house and service 58,000 refugees from the Sudan, Ethiopia, and Somalia. It is now bulging at the seams with 185,154 regular refugees and asylum seekers (UNHCR, 2018 Statistics). Cochair Yuhanna Edwards, along with James Rapp and Ambassador Bob Jalang'o, led a chapter fund-raiser for the camp school. The affair was held in Mount Vernon, NY, at "Apricots and Honey: Wine and Spirits" in December, coinciding with Human Rights Day. Proceeds from the event will be combined with other contributions and used for supplies and teacher salaries at the Gambela School over the next 10 years. The chapter, along with the Southern New York State Division, raised over \$10,500 for the cause during the year. We encourage you to contribute to this effort at <http://www.unausa.org/programs/adopt-a-future>.

We must all be advocates for the UN and its work around the world, and we on the Advocacy Committee encourage others to speak out and support the UN. Please contact our senators and let

them know your view of the value of the UN, and remind them that the U.S. cannot lead as a superpower by leaving the playing field: Contact **Senator Kirsten Gillibrand at 202-224-4451** or <http://www.gillibrand.senate.gov//contact>; and **Senator Chuck Schumer at 202-224-6542** or <https://www.schumer.senate.gov/contact/email-chuck>.

Also, Cochair Joan Katen is now moderating the “Great Decisions” series of the Foreign Policy Association (FPA) as another way to engage more people in learning about decision making on U.S. foreign policy. “Great Decisions” takes place at the Harrison Library, 2 Bruce Avenue, Harrison, NY, once a month. Interested participants gather at 1:30 P.M. to see a film on the topic of the day, hear a speaker well-versed in the topic, and then break into discussion groups to tackle a question that Joan, as moderator, poses to them. We then convene as a committee of the whole to discuss our answers. Each participant then fills out his/her policy views on an anonymous ballot supplied by the Foreign Policy Association. The ballots come in from similar groups all over the country, are collated by the FPA, and are sent to Congress and the executive branch of our government. In this way, we make our views known to our elected representatives, and we have some input into U.S. foreign policy. Scheduled speakers are Rolf Mowatt Larsen, Director of the Belfer Center at the Kennedy School, Harvard University, on “Russian Foreign Policy” in April, and Brigadier General Peter DeLuca on “The Future of the U.S. Military” in May. Calendars for future “Great Decisions” discussions may be obtained from :

the Harrison Library System 914-835-0324 or at <https://www.harrisonpl.org/events/harrison/8364>.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The Program Committee, ably led by Myrna Anover and Lilli Schindler, organized, sponsored, and participated in many activities. The main events organized by our chapter over the May 2017 to April 2018 period are listed above.

UNA-Westchester Annual Meeting, May 7, 2017:

The Annual Meeting, with the theme “United Nations at Risk: Taking a Stand,” was held at the Community Unitarian Universalist Congregation in White Plains. Ambassador Bob Jalang’o, former Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations and Chris Whatley, Executive Director of United Nations Association of the USA, were the keynote speakers. We had a good turnout of members and the local community, who elected board members for the coming year.

World Refugee Day, June 20, 2017:

Christopher Swain, a member of the UNA-USA Westchester Chapter, swam from the Statue of Liberty to Manhattan Island to call attention to the needs of the 65 million people who come under the United Nations refugee program, and are part of the worst refugee crisis since World War II. All funds raised as part of Swain’s swim were contributed directly to UNA-USA’s Adopt-A-Future program and our adopted Gambela Primary School. A reception followed at the United Nations Foundation’s New York office.

UN Day, October 22, 2017, with the theme “Global Goals, Local Leaders,” was celebrated at the Wainwright House in Rye, NY. The remarks delivered by Ambassador Henry Mac Donald of Suriname on the Sustainable Development Goals on that beautiful autumn day were quite inspiring. We recognized seven individuals or organizations in our communities who contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. They were all very worthy of the honor and Professor Nick Robinson did a masterful job of responding on behalf of the awardees. All the participants enjoyed the reception and the opportunity to network with others who are dedicated to the work of the United Nations.

Global Engagement Summit, February 23, 2018, attracted over 1,500 UNA-USA members and students from around the country at the General Assembly Hall, United Nations. The event included some outstanding panels on climate change, human rights, the Sustainable Development Goals,

the refugee crisis, and issues before the General Assembly. Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, Youth Observer Munira Khalif, President of the General Assembly Miroslav Lajčák, and Professor Jeffrey Sachs in particular were very well received. The interaction with the participants was very lively. This conference, which used to be called UNA-USA's Members Day, has become one of the main vehicles for raising awareness of the work of the UN among U.S. citizens.

International Women's Day, March 4, 2018, with the theme "Women Leaders Champion Human Rights and Dignity," was held at the Yonkers Waterfront Library, and was cosponsored by the Links, Inc., the Yonkers Public Library, and the AKA Sorority Inc. Celebrating and recognizing Westchester's women leaders, the well-attended event honored: H.E. Loreen Bannis-Roberts, Ambassador of the Commonwealth of Dominica to the UN; Karen Cheeks-Lomax, Esq., CEO of My Sister's Place; Corazón Pineda-Isaac, Councilwoman, City of Yonkers; and Tara Rosenbaum, Channel 12 anchor. Among the VIPs attending were: Mayor Michael Spano of Yonkers, H.E. Dr. Henry Mac Donald, former Ambassador to the UN from Suriname; Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins; and County Legislator MaryJane Shimsky, among many others. A wonderful reception was held in the art gallery, featuring an all-woman show, *Unsettled*, curated by Haifa Bint-Kadi.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee, cochaired by Mary Seward Downes and Karen Rockwell El-Badry, has continued to participate in a joint UNA-USA and AKA Sorority project, Model UN mini-simulations on climate change in local schools. The "mini-sims" are designed to extend the Model UN concept to students who do not have the opportunity to take part in the traditional Model UN conferences held each year. The UNA-USA provides material for teachers, including background information on topics of interest, briefing cards on individual countries, and guidelines for conducting simulated meetings of the UN General Assembly. In partnership with the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and Mercy

College, UNA-Westchester organized a successful full-day Mini-Model UN on Climate Change at the Sarah Lawrence Center for the Urban River at Beczak (CURB) on October 21, 2017. The program was facilitated by the Mercy College Model UN team and its adviser, Professor Michiko Kuroda, and was attended by Yonkers high school students. The partners had received a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to conduct a special campaign on the various issues related to climate change. Additionally, this spring (2018), students from the Model UN Clubs of Mount Vernon and Woodlands High Schools will implement an AKA 1908 Gardens Project. The students and their advisers, Mr. Mihailidis and Mr. Vaccaro, are currently searching for a designated area in the City of Mount Vernon or Greenburgh where they will launch a clean-up campaign and prepare a garden.

For the 12th consecutive year, the chapter brought its peace/art project, "Peace Makes the World a Better Place," to third-grade classes in some of the Yonkers public schools. Board members and volunteers, including college students, participated. The project provides an introduction to the United Nations and to the concept of peace-making and includes a section for the children to make individual drawings related to peace. With a view to making this successful project available to other chapters or groups, a detailed description is available on the chapter's website, with links to some materials for anyone wishing to create a power-point presentation.

The Education Committee also had a display table at the Annual December Conference of the Westchester-Lower Hudson Council for the Social Studies. We offered a variety of materials provided by the UN Department of Public Information to assist teachers in incorporating the United Nations into their social studies curriculum. Two staff members from UN/DPI were also present to discuss areas of interest to middle and high school teachers.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

The task of the Nominations Committee in 2018

was to develop a slate of five officers and four directors for nine positions of a 14-member Board. The committee consisted of: Marcia Wallace, Chair; Lilli Schindler and Myrna Anover, representing the board; and Doris Benson and Jackie Boucher, representing the membership. Four of the officers and two of the directors could not be recommended for the same position because of term limits—they had been elected to that position for three consecutive two-year terms. Two officers were retiring, leaving four for incumbents who were willing to serve and were considered worthy candidates.

The working method (procedure) was to assure that every decision had the full participation and accord of the five committee members, which required constant communication. Four conference meetings were held from November 2017 to February 2018. There was constant email communication with all members on inquiries to potential candidates and their responses.

The committee considered all members of the current board, as well as others who had been recommended as potential candidates and those who had formerly served on the board during the past eight years. Those noted as having leadership potential at the retreat in July 2016 and recommendations by the president were considered. The Nominations Committee members agreed on each step, and on what individuals were to be approached for each position. The Chair spoke with 11 of the other 13 members of the board at least one time and in most cases two or three or more times. People were very thoughtful in considering the responsibility and their willingness and ability to fulfill the tasks. Time was allowed for consideration and reconsideration.

During deliberations the Young Professionals program director allowed. because of her heavy outside obligations, that a cochair would be beneficial. The by-laws are very specific about designating a Young Professionals chair within an age range. This is unlike the other directors who are not task identified on the slate. A Young Professionals cochair

position was slated. An individual new to the board was recommended for the proposed slate.

In addition to the Young Professionals cochair position, three other positions are to be held by new members of the board: vice president, treasurer and one director. There was some disruption caused by the withdrawal of the original candidate for president and a reconfiguration of the other positions. Two candidates were then considered for vice president. The by-laws allow for multiple vice presidents to be given special responsibilities and elected as such. The proposed slate was sent to the board members prior to the March 5 meeting. At the board meeting, it was decided not to create a new vice president for fund-raising, but to have a director in charge of fund-raising. The proposed (provisional) slate as amended was accepted by the board by a unanimous vote. With the addition of two board members, the total board numbers increased from 14 to 16.

The members of the Nominations Committee were committed and diligent. This year's work was particularly challenging, because of term limits and the unexpected withdrawal of the slated president. The committee were thoughtful, perceptive, responsive and worked together with total integrity. It was an exemplary process, for which the chair is thankful. The slate is as follows:

CLASS OF 2020 OFFICERS:

President	David R. Finch
Vice President	Jan Fisher
Secretary	Karen Rockwell El-Badry
Treasurer	Oneida Cabaleiro
Nominations	Joan Katen

DIRECTORS:

Myrna Anover	
Aicha Bargo	Young professionals co-chair
Marcia Brewster	
Mary Seward Downes	
Brenda Smith	
Christopher Swain	

Not on slate: Class of 2019

DIRECTORS:

- J. Yuhanna Edwards
- Amb. Bob Jalang’o
- Martha Perez Young professionals co-chair
- Lilli Schindler
- Patrick Sciarratta

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS PROGRAM

The Young Professionals Program (YPP), chaired by Martha Perez, remains very involved at the heart of UNA-Westchester’s events. The group organized a Networking Happy Hour in collaboration with Women in Global Affairs NYC on the geopolitical relations between North Korea and the United States. The Young Professionals Program also collaborated with Energy Vision and Solar Cities to create the first small-scale biodigester at the Bronx Center for Science and Mathematics. This was a significant initiative for the school and students as they strive to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The YPP is excited about hosting career and networking events in the future, as well as more educational events to inspire the community to become more involved in promoting the UN Sustainable Development Goals both locally and globally. We also plan to hold more events this year, particularly on women’s empowerment, peace-keeping, climate change, and the strengthening of global citizenship among youth. Please visit our link at www.unawestchester.org or email 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 year 2017:

Balance: January 1, 2017:	\$10,705
2017 Income:	6,572
2017 Expenditures:	7,359
Balance: December 31, 2017:	\$ 9,918

UNFCU made a generous \$1,000 contribution to the chapter. In turn, the board contributed \$600 of the funds to the Adopt-A-Future program.

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The chapter’s new communications chair, Patrick Sciarratta, has set a goal to rethink communications in a way to attract many more readers, donor sponsors, as well as participants in our programs. As chair, I think this may be an essential plank in our development strategy.

We currently use Eventbrite as a means to register participants and report on current changes to event times or locations. We have expanded our promotional capabilities to include Constant Contact, and have nearly doubled our email list, since we began to develop this portion of our outreach. Currently, Constant Contact houses the main contact and media lists for the organization (totaling approximately 800 active recipients), produces our flyers, releases, and newsletter. For the newsletter, Global Connections, Constant Contact allows us to add many more photos and to include videos in our issues. Of course, this format saves paper, mailing costs for the organization, and more importantly, disseminates the information more widely as promotion for our events and goals.

Beyond this, we have focused on building and promoting events to a wider audience and promoting new events with the program committee for youth and general audiences in cooperation with our current and new partners into the coming year. We are thankful that our nominee for president, Dave Finch, also has the expertise to lead us online as webmaster.

While we have pledged to make copies of our newsletter or programs available in paper format when necessary, the communications committee will continue to work toward further computerization and online presentation for flyers, programs, and media releases for the future.

NEWSLETTER

Scott Monje has maintained a high standard for our newsletter, *The UNA-Westchester Global Connection*, which was issued three times during the past year. Starting in February 2018, the newsletter is being disseminated via electronic distribution to save on costs during the coming year. Contributions to the newsletter are welcome. Send them to unawestchester@gmail.com.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee, led by Marcia Wallace, reports that UNA-Westchester had a membership of 121 on January 1, 2017 and 128 on December 31, 2017. This number does not include students. We had 45 new members join the chapter during the year (see list attached), mainly in response to chapter events and to the efforts of Marcia Brewster, President, and Brenda Smith, Vice President. Another 38 members were dropped from the national list, giving a net gain of seven members. New members were sent letters of welcome from the chapter, in addition to acknowledgement from the UNA-USA national office.

Members about to be “dropped” from the membership lists because their dues have lapsed were sent letters from the chapter alerting them to the situation. Contact with members is generally by email when we receive the monthly report from the national office. Telephone contact is extremely spotty and generally ineffective. Postal mail has been used when it is the only alternative. Response to these attempts is limited.

Follow up with nonmembers who attend our public programs has not been successful so far, but we will make a more rigorous attempt to recruit new members in the coming year. The programs are very well attended by nonmembers.

In an effort to compare our membership numbers with other chapters, the membership chair has been in contact with Katrina Finch, UNA-USA national membership chair. Although there is reluctance to share membership numbers, Ms.

Finch is “working on it.” A comparison of numbers would be helpful in setting realistic expectations and goals.

Appreciation for a major effort in membership goes to Marcia Brewster, President, and the volunteers who sent letters on behalf of membership as requested. We also appreciate the 45 new members. They should receive special acknowledgement at the annual meeting in April 2018.

UNA-WESTCHESTER NEW MEMBERS, 2017

We are so excited to welcome the following people who joined our chapter in 2017: Wael Alesawy, Juljan Belja, Daniel Bena, Hadwin Card, Bruce Carlino, Matthieu Chabanne, Nya Chambung, John Chinnery, Blanca DiSalvo, Dede Emerson, James Ferrari, Joeffrey Gardner, Traci Gardner, Carol Grosvenor, Soknan Han Jung, Katarina Hoeger, Jeannette Jalang’o, Yolandi Kelley-Cannick, Gourab Kundu, John W. Lewis, Tara Linhardt, Michael Mancuso, Michael McCrosson, Marilyn Meese, Matthew Michael, Doretta Miraglia, Anthony Nunez, Lawrence O’Connell, Richard Ottinger, Harshadrai Patel, Nalini Patel, Kathy Puffer, Fatmir Pushka, Amanda Ready, Albino Rocchi, Marilyn Rogers, Sheila Sarkar, Mark Rosen, Esterretta Sharp, Christopher Swain, Michael Tustin, Paget Walker, Steve Wang, Sonji Williams, and Elisa Zazzera. Thank you for your commitment to our cause!

UNA-USA PARTNERSHIP WITH ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.

UNA-USA and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority (AKA), Inc., have engaged in a partnership at the national level since October 2014 with the aim of creating global citizens and fostering new audiences to better support the United Nations. The partnership, set to last until mid-2018, will engage a new generation of “ambassadors” in the vital work of the UN, through globally focused workshops and activities, including Model UN simulations.

This national partnership has thrived in our chapter, led by Vice President and Partnerships Chair

Brenda Smith, a member of Zeta Nu Omega Chapter. The three Westchester Chapters of AKA— Zeta Nu Omega, Pi Iota Omega, and Xi Chi Omega— have cosponsored UN Day 2017, International Women’s Day in March 2018, and several other events. In addition, UNA-Westchester and AKA have been working together on a Global Classrooms mini-Model UN simulation for dissemination around Westchester and have collaborated with the Sarah Lawrence College Center for the Urban River at Beczak (CURB) on a one-day mini-Model UN program on climate change in October. We have received a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to spread this “mini-sim” on climate change throughout the county.

INTERNS

We have benefitted greatly from a series of student

interns over the past year. They include: Smahane Nounouh, Jordana LaRose, Luis Perez, and Charlotte Svendsen (Mercy College). We also had the excellent assistance of Katarina Hoeger, a recent graduate, who helped with our communications needs. These interns helped organize volunteers, programs, and outreach for our program events, kept the website current, and assisted the president in a number of critical ways.

CONCLUSION

Thank you to the committee chairs who have contributed to this report. We invite more of our members to participate in our program, education, advocacy, and membership committees. Members, your association needs your contributions to help support the work of the United Nations. Please contact us with your ideas at unawestchester@gmail.com.

UNA-WESTCHESTER NOMINEES FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2018-2020

President: David R. Finch has served as treasurer



of UNA-Westchester’s board for the last 16 years. He was an international banker for 22 years. Having begun his international interests when living in Burma in the early 1950s, he was stationed in Thailand from 1968 to 1973 and Indonesia from 1976 to 1978, and traveled to over 30 countries. He recently served on the Board of Trustees for the Village of Mamaroneck and spent six years on the board of his church’s national NGO at the United Nations and is now a member of its International Funding Panel. He has an MBA from New York University and is a Certified Financial Planner. He lives in Mamaroneck.

and the Pacific (Sydney) and in the Centre for Western Europe (Brussels). Mr. Fischer traveled widely with the UN, especially in North Africa and the Middle and Near East, including four visits to Iraq. He was the liaison person for interagency cooperation for 20 years.

As DPI liaison, Mr. Fischer worked closely with Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, many Special Representatives of the S-G, Special Rapporteurs, and Under-Secretaries-General. He elaborated a \$75 million biannual budget covering 63 locations and about 300 staff worldwide. He has worked closely with UNAs in the USA, Australia, Belgium, and Scotland.

Vice President: Jan Fischer was a staff member of



the United Nations Department for Public Information for over 25 years; he worked for the Secretariat, General Assembly, and Security Council. He served in the UN Information Centre for Australia

He also hosted the annual meeting of European members of the World Federation of UNAs (WFUNA) in Brussels for three years. Since his retirement in 2016, he has done speaking engagements in Wisconsin, the Canadian Rockies, Manhattan, Long Island, and for the Great Decisions sessions. He hails from Denmark and lives in Mamaroneck with his Australian wife; they have two sons.

Secretary: Karen Rockwell El-Badry was a



staff member of the UN Secretariat in New York for 35 years, serving as Recruitment and Administrative Officer for the program of technical cooperation. Her activities past and present have focused on world peace, cooperation, and understanding. She lived in Egypt and takes an active interest in issues relating to the Middle East. She has participated for more than ten years in the Dialogue Project (New York), which engages diverse people in transformative dialogue related to the Middle East. She is also a board member of the Center for Jewish-Christian-Muslim Understanding, an organization that promotes conversations among members of the Abrahamic faiths through outreach and educational events. Karen has been a member of the UNA-USA Westchester board for ten years and has served for the same period of time on the Education Committee. She coordinates a program for UNA-USA in the Yonkers public schools that introduces students to the UN and the concept of peace-making. She lives in Dobbs Ferry with her daughter.

Treasurer: Oneida Cabaleiro has been working as a member of the UNA-Westchester program committee for the past three years; she has volunteered for many of UNA's program events and participated at the national meeting in Washington, DC, in 2016.



She currently works as accounting manager of the non-profit Legal Service of the Hudson Valley in White Plains. She earlier worked as a senior accountant at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, a senior auditor assistant at Deloitte & Touche, LLP, and an operations assistant at Lehman College, among other positions. Before she came to the U.S., she was an administrative assistant at the Ministry of Energy and Mines in Lima, Peru. She currently serves on the board of the Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting (ALPFA), New York, NY. She received her BSc in Accounting and MSc in Finance from CUNY

Lehman College. She also attended Westchester Community College and the Inca Garcilaso de la Vega University in Peru. Originally from Peru, she lives in White Plains with one son.

Nominations Chair: Joan Alice Maliha Katen has



served on the board of UNA-Westchester for many years, including most recently as Advocacy Cochair. She is an Adjunct Professor at Pace University, Pleasantville, NY. She has designed courses in Middle East politics and is cofounder of the Peace, Justice, and Sustainability Program. She was previously an instructor at the Cambridge Center for Adult Education in Boston. Ms. Katen has received a number of prestigious awards, including: the National Thomas Jefferson Award for Public Service; a Congressional Proclamation honoring her for her distinguished career as an author and Middle Eastern expert; and from the American Muslim Women's Association for "Building Bridges between Communities." She received a Master's Degree from Columbia University's Department of Public Law and Government. She is the author of "Love at the Edge," a novel concerning the Palestinian/Israeli conflict. She has held a number of positions in the government of Mamaroneck and was President of the Mamaroneck League of Women Voters.

DIRECTORS

Myrna Anover worked in various capacities at the United Nations for 28 years: in the Outreach Division of the Department of Public Information; Global Environment Facility; Executive Office of the Secretary-General; the Office for the Coordination of humanitarian Affairs; and the High-Level Task Force on Food Security. She is an avid advocate for the work of the UN in mitigating the impact of humanitarian disaster caused by climate change. She is from Tacloban City, where her family and friends were victims of Typhoon Haiyan. She currently serves on the Hartsdale Public Parking District Board



and is Program Cochair of UNA-Westchester. Myrna has volunteered for the International Red Cross and the Blythedale Children's Hospital, and is an honorary board member of Mayi Theatre Group. She studied at the School for International and Public Affairs at Columbia University, the University of the Philippines, and Long Island University and was a Rotary International scholar. She is married and has a son, two stepdaughters, and two grandchildren.

Young Professionals Cochair: Aicha Bargo has



been a volunteer with the UNA-Westchester Young Professionals program for the last few years; she represented the chapter's YPs at the annual UNA-USA meeting in Washington, DC, in 2017. She has been working as a financial analyst at PepsiCo in White Plains for the past five years. Prior to that she worked as an audit intern at Deloitte & Touche in 2013. She served as treasurer of the Lehman College chapter of the Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting (ALPFA), and volunteers with ALPFA's New York City chapter. She received her BSc in Accounting and her MSc in Finance (2012) from City University of New York, Lehman College, Bronx, NY. Originally from Burkina Faso, she lives in White Plains with her husband and one son, Benjamin.

Marcia M. Brewster, served as president of



UNA-Westchester from 2011 to 2018. She devoted most of her career to United Nations programs related to water, sustainable development, and gender. Until 2006 she was Senior Officer for water resources in the Sustainable Development Division at United Nations headquarters in New York. She worked for the UN for over 30 years, both in New York and at the regional UN office for Asia and the Pacific, in Bangkok, Thailand. She served as Manager of the UN's Interagency Task Force on Gender and Water, and is deeply concerned about gender equality and women's empowerment.

She is currently a senior consultant with Nautilus International Development Consulting in New York, and has recently undertaken assignments with the United Nations Development Program, the Nature Conservancy, the World Water Council, and the Global Environment Facility. She has an MSc from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and spent 13 years living and working in Asia. She lives in Hastings on Hudson and has twin sons.

Mary Seward Downes is Cochair of the



UNA-Westchester Education Committee and is working to extend its Model UN Mini-Simulation program. She is an active member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and is committee chair for the Scholarship Fundraising Committee and the Global Impact Program. Ms. Downes is a learning specialist for the Bedford Central School District, where she has chaired several school committees and projects. She is currently implementing the Olweus Anti-Bullying Program and served as committee chair. She developed the school's "UPSTANDER" program, which included "The Bow Tie Cause" to empower youth to take a stand. She is a marathoner and holds a certificate in coaching endurance athletes for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Ms. Downes has a B.A. from the University of Delaware and a master's degree in education from Mercy College. She is the mother of two teenage sons and is writing a memoir of her experiences overcoming adversity as a divorcee.

Brenda L. Galloway Smith has served on the



UNA-Westchester board for seven years, as Vice President, Partnerships Chair and Program Chair. She served from 2002 to June 2007 as Superintendent of the Mount Vernon Public Schools, following 39 years in the education system. As superintendent, she oversaw a \$180 million budget and supervised a staff of 1,400, with a student body of more than 10,000. Dr. Smith represents the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women to the UN,

which enables her to work with other NGOs at the UN. She is the recipient of more than 100 awards for service to youth and the community from clubs, churches, fraternities, and foundations. She was named New York State Teacher of the Year, among other awards. Mrs. Smith received a B.S. degree from Livingstone College in North Carolina, and master's degrees from Hunter College and Columbia University. She received a doctorate in Organization and Leadership in Educational Administration from Columbia University and an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Livingstone College. Mrs. Smith is actively involved in the Mount Hope A.M.E. Zion Church, where her husband, Dr. Gregory Robeson Smith, Sr., is senior pastor. They have three children and four grandchildren.

He swam to commemorate World Refugee Day on June 20, 2017, and International Day of Peace on September 21 to support our adopted school. Swain documents his swims in photographs, journals, and videos. He worked closely with the United Nations during its International Year of Freshwater 2003 and the "Water for Life" Decade, 2005–15. His efforts are in support of SDG 6, Clean Water and Sanitation. Swain is the first person in history to swim the entire lengths of the Columbia, Hudson, Mohawk, Charles, and Mystic Rivers, as well as many other water bodies. The purpose of Christopher's swims is to put threatened waterways squarely in the public eye, and to support protection, restoration, and education efforts. He lives in Mamaroneck and is the father of two daughters.

Christopher Swain has assisted UNA-Westchester in raising funds for its Adopt-A-Future campaign, which supports the Gambela Primary School at Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya. He has been doing distance swimming and advocating for clean waterways and the work of the United Nations since 1996.

