



**Report of the UNA-Westchester Annual Meeting, May 7, 2017**

UNA-Westchester held its Annual Meeting on May 7, 2017 at the Community Unitarian Universalist Congregation in White Plains NY. Marcia Brewster, President of the Chapter, welcomed the enthusiastic crowd following a warm up by Solar Punch, the solar-powered band. She presented the annual report of the chapter, which is available in the April 2017 Newsletter available on the [www.unawestchester.org](http://www.unawestchester.org) Website. Nominations Chair Marcia Wallace then presented the slate of candidates for Board of Directors and the following outstanding people were elected to the Board: Councilman J. Yuhanna Edwards, Ambassador Bob Jalango, Martha Perez, Lilli Schindler and Patrick Sciaratta. Ms. Brewster then introduced Chris Whatley, Executive Director of UNA-USA.

Mr. Whatley noted that UNA-USA currently faces the challenge as a movement of Americans who believe that our connections to the world make us stronger amidst a rising global tide of rejection of such connections. He mentioned that our challenge is to demonstrate that problems that concern us and the hopes we have for our lives and our families can't be addressed or achieved without working together within the international system. The challenge we face is about more than any politician, it is about making the case for our values, the belief that our connections to the world don't threaten us; they enable us.

The moment we are currently moving through demonstrates the enduring importance of grassroots movements. Fortunately, UNA's transition over the past five years from a think tank focused on writing White Papers to a grassroots movement focused on mobilizing constituents has prepared it well for the moment yet to come. UNA has more than doubled its membership over the past five years and is opening new chapters every month. However, to capture this moment and become the movement we need to be, we all need to become story tellers, capable of showing how the UN's work connects to our own personal stories and to show others around us how their stores do the same.

Ambassador Bob Jalang'o then presented his keynote address on "The United Nations at Risk: A Time to Take a Stand to Protect and Support The UN". He discussed issues that concern all UN members in the event of reduced funding from the U.S., in particular developing countries and refugee populations (see full version of his talk in a separate file).

Following the presentations, George Garland, President of the UNA Southern NY State Division, moderated a thoughtful discussion of the issues related to the UN at Risk.

Dr. Brenda Smith, Vice President and Partnerships Chair, introduced Diana Juettner, Chair of the Social Studies Department at Mercy College. With the speakers and other local leaders, they presented certificates to the Mercy College Model UN team that had achieved Outstanding Delegation at the National Model UN Conference in New York City in April.

We then had a great networking reception with all of the participants, speakers and local leaders. We were entertained by Solar Punch. It was a very inspiring and enjoyable event and resulted in nine new members to the Chapter!