

UN Celebrates its 65th Anniversary with the Help of Trumbull High School

At 11:30 a.m. on Friday, October 22, the United Nations Association (UNA-USA) of Southwestern Connecticut celebrated UN Day in a ceremony at Westport Town Hall. This year's theme is *"Engaging America in the Millennium Development Goals."* The program included a proclamation of United Nations Day by Westport First Selectman Gordon Joseloff and a message from the UN Secretary-General, read out by Bill Hass, President of the UNA of Southwestern CT. In addition, Ms. Aye Aye Thant, President of the U Thant Institute and daughter of the former UN Secretary-General, offered a message especially to the younger generation of working towards peace and unity not only for right now, but also for the future. Kayla Mitchell, a senior in the Trumbull High Model UN Club, said that Aye Aye Thant's message about ending poverty by 2015 sent "hope for our future." However, she added that "if we want poverty to end by 2015, the entire world needs to come together and work as one. Every country needs to work together if we want to make the world a better place."

Ms. Katie Boland, advisor to the Model UN Club, received a special invitation for the students of Trumbull High School to take an active role at the ceremony. Students from THS's Model UN Club and Staples High School came together at the beginning and raised the United Nations flag together as a symbol of unity and hope for our future.

Other Trumbull High School students participated in the ceremony as well. The Chamber Singers sang two selections for the committee. Under the direction of Anne Tornillo, their selection *Walk A Mile* highlighted the United Nations' theme of acceptance of other people and cultures urging everyone to "walk a mile" in someone else's shoes. Senior Emily Block, President of the Model UN Club at Trumbull High School, during her speech at the ceremony, said "the United Nations represents hope and for so many who are subjugated and made to feel forgotten by the world; it remains that beacon of light, that someone, somewhere understands their plight."

Sophomore Gulrukh Haroon, the publicist for the Model UN Club, said that her experience with Model UN has given her "a chance to meet new people, solve issues and unite everyone in the effort to make peace." Sophomore Brandon Capece added that "the United Nations is more than just about politics and crises; it offers a way for students to find oneself. Model UN has helped develop skills that I can use elsewhere like being confident with public speaking."

Overall, it was a beautiful and chilly Friday afternoon at the Westport Town Hall, and all students were very grateful for the opportunity to attend the event. The Model UN Club would especially like to thank the ACE Foundation who provided for transportation to Westport and for always supporting the club and others throughout Trumbull's schools. Ms. Boland remarked, "This was a last minute opportunity for our students and it wouldn't have been possible without the support of the administration at THS and the ACE Foundation."



Emily Block, President of the Model UN Club at THS, explains her view of the United Nations today to the crowd. Sophomore club members Gulrukh Haroon and Brandon Capece look on.

Brandon Capece, a sophomore at THS, addresses the crowd about his experience at last spring's Model UN Conference in Washington, D.C. Aye Aye Thant, daughter of former Secretary General, looks on.



Brandon Capece raises the United Nations flag at the ceremony as fellow sophomore Gulrukh Haroon assists.

The Trumbull High School Chamber Singers, under the direction of Anne Tornillo, sing "Walk One Mile" to commemorate the event.

