

The Flags of Unity



Above, flags of the United Nations line the Ruth Steinkraus Cohen Bridge in Westport in honor of the 65th anniversary of U.N. Day Friday. Below, Model U.N. Club members from Trumbull High School Brandon Capece, Emily Block and Gutrukh Haroon raise the United Nations flag during the UNA-SWC, United Nations Day celebration at Westport Town Hall.

Hour photos / ERIK TRAUTMAN



Westport celebrates 65th anniversary of United Nations

WESTPORT
By CHASE WRIGHT
Hour Staff Writer

In honoring the 65th birthday of the United Nations, Westport officials held a special ceremony Friday afternoon on the steps of Town Hall.

This year's theme — "Engaging America in the Millennium Development Goals" — promotes a historic promise made at the turn of the century to achieve eight anti-poverty goals by 2015.

"Westport is one of the strongest supporters of the U.N. and has been

Joseloff said, before reading a proclamation, which declared Oct. 24 as "U.N. Day in Westport."

The United Nations is an international organization founded in 1945 after World War II by 51 countries committed to maintaining international peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations and promoting social progress, better living standards and human rights.

Today, the UN is made up of 192 member states, the flags of which fly every October and June along the Ruth Steinkraus Cohen



United Nations celebrated

From A1

Memorial Bridge.

Friday's ceremony began with music by the Trumbull High School Chamber Singers Choir and continued with the raising of the U.N. and U.S. flags in front of Town Hall.

Bill Hass, president of the United Nations Association of Southwestern Connecticut, read remarks by Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon and Fourth District Congressman Jim Himes, who could not attend the ceremony, but congratulated the U.N. on 65 years of leadership in the global com-

munity.

Members of the Staples High School and Trumbull High School's Model U.N. Club then joined together to define what the United Nations means to them.

Trumbull High School student Emily Block said the U.N. is more than a mere conglomeration of nations.

"It is a symbol for millions of people who are oppressed," she said. "The United Nations represents hope for so many who are subjugated and made to feel forgotten by the world. It remains a beacon of light that someone, somewhere

understands their plight."

Aye Aye Thant, president of the U Thant Institute, used her closing remarks to address the youth in the audience.

Thant, a Westport resident whose father served as a former U.N. secretary-general, said she was inspired by the student's enthusiasm and kind remarks.

"Let the world hear your voice," Thant said. "Remember the beginning of the U.N. Charter: 'We the people.' It is for everyone, young and old, to get involved in the activities of the United Nations."