

International Hospitality Committee
November 17, 2021
Town Hall

Attendees: Bill Hass, Barbara Jay, Joan Hass, Aye Aye Thant, Melinda McMillen, Dennis Wong, Derick DeMarche, Gloria Nussbaum, Arline Gertzoff, Marge Nieuwenhuis, Karen Marino (via phone), Michaela MacColl, Marilyn Smith, Jen Kellar

Bill Hass opened the meeting at 2:05.

1. **Recap of UN Day** events in Westport, Weston and Norwalk. A discussion about ways to increase attendance and awareness.
2. **Cybersecurity Event** has been postponed because it has been difficult to find an appropriate venue.
3. **Model UN** and ways to support local MUNs were discussed . Some ideas were to host a reception for MUNs, do Global Classrooms, invite to special events, information to schools, sponsor a trip to the UN. Marge will head a MUN Committee. Contact her at nieuwenhuis@optonline.net to be involved.
4. **Peace Pole** Dennis Wong gave us an update and briefed the committee on how the peace poles work. For more information see <https://www.worldpeace.org/peacepoleproject/>
5. **Refugee program** in the spring: we are planning to kick it off on International Women's Day. More details to come. Contact Michaela at mmaccoll@optonline.net to be involved.
6. **Westport Library:** Jen Kellar briefed us on 15 library initiatives on food insecurity. The committee is helping to find a UN speaker. She also discussed the Mondian Dogon program that the committee co-sponsored. The replay is available https://westportlibrary.org/aiovg_videos/mondiant-dogon-those-we-throw-away-are-diamonds/

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50. The next meeting will be held on December 15th, the location to be announced.