

IHC Meeting  
November 16, 2022  
Town Hall

Present: Bill Hass, Joan Hass, Maggie Mudd, Rona Weinstein, Marge Nieuwenhuis, Dennis Wong, Michaela MacColl

1. November - December Programs (with UNA-SW CT)

- Thanksgiving hospitality: Joan Hass reported very few host families have volunteered. Numbers of hosts are also down in Westchester. Rotarians are sending out a notice asking for host families.
- Author event December 6<sup>th</sup>

Victoria Jamieson, the illustrator of *When the Stars are Scattered* is doing an event at the Westport Library which will be zoomed to Westport middle schools and Bridgeport Middle schools. The refugee author, Omar Mohammed, will zoom in from Kenya. Then she will visit Waltersville Elementary in Bridgeport. In the evening she'll do a graphic novel class at the library. CT Humanities is funding the \$5000 for the visit and 175 books for classes. News 12 may cover the event.

2. October 24th UN Day (with UNA SW CT)

- The Ruth Steinkraus Cohen Memorial Lecture: The event was very successful with approximately 150 in attendance, and more watching via zoom. Thanks to Aye Aye and Barbara Jay for finding Mary Evelyn Tucker. The consensus was that next year we need to find a speaker earlier. The reception was popular – next year we'll need to plan RSVPs better. We discussed possible speakers in the political realm, NGO world and UN.
- Weston Town Hall – Marge reported a successful event with live music, great participation with students, good turnout.
- Westport Town Hall—Bill reported it was a modest affair. Jen Tooker made a statement, and there were two Staples high school students. We didn't promote the event. Aye Aye suggested that we should have music next year. Marge said we need to institutionalize the school's involvement so it is expected every year. Maybe reconsider the timing of the event. Maybe move to Staples HS or Bedford MS.
- Norwalk Town Hall—Derick managed to get News 12 coverage. The town's PR group helped. Marge and Derick want to work on more school involvement.

Dennis suggested that perhaps the Westport UN Day event should be incorporated into the Ruth Steinkraus Cohen speaker event.

### 3. Education Related Programs

- Marge reported that she and Rona are meeting with Brian McMahon's Center for Global Studies to see how our chapter can be of service. There is a social studies teacher who is eager to work with us. One role is to facilitate communication between the Model UNs or bringing them to the UN. Marge will come up with a proposal for the chapter to help out the MUNs financially.
- Lachat Farm: There's a lot of construction and Marge isn't sure that the event on April 1<sup>st</sup> will work out.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45. The next meeting will be 12/14 at 2:00 at Westport Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Michaela MacColl