

Meeting Minutes: International Hospitality Committee

January 22, 2026

6:30 PM Town Hall

Attendees: Bill Hass, Rob MacColl, Andrea Dostal, Joan Hass, Karen Marino (Zoom), Goldie James (Zoom), Mark Zurkiw, Heba Nuba, Maggie Mudd, Dereck Demarche, Michaela MacColl

The following items were discussed:

1. Thanksgiving Hospitality, November 27th, 2025 – The committee placed 16 students with 8 hosts. There was discussion about how to expand the program using local groups in the community and promoting the opportunity.
2. Proposed program on Ukraine: Mark Zurkiw proposed a panel discussion about the situation in the Ukraine with the support of the Committee and the UNA-USA of Southwestern CT. Mark and others are working to define the topic while Michaela will check at the library to see what dates might be available.
3. June day, June 27th – planning is just beginning for June Day. Anyone who would like to volunteer should contact andreasusa@yahoo.com. We discussed expanding the marketplace to feature female refugee artisans from Africa. We want to expand outreach to the missions who may not realize this hospitality event is for them.
4. UN Day, October 24th: Bill and Maggie are working on a speaker. Our goal is to lock in the speaker early this year. Several names were suggested.
5. New Business: International Students – Heba is helping to host international Model UN teams in NYC and asked for help to potentially host them for a day in Fairfield County.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted by Michaela MacColl, Co-Chair International Hospitality Committee