



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

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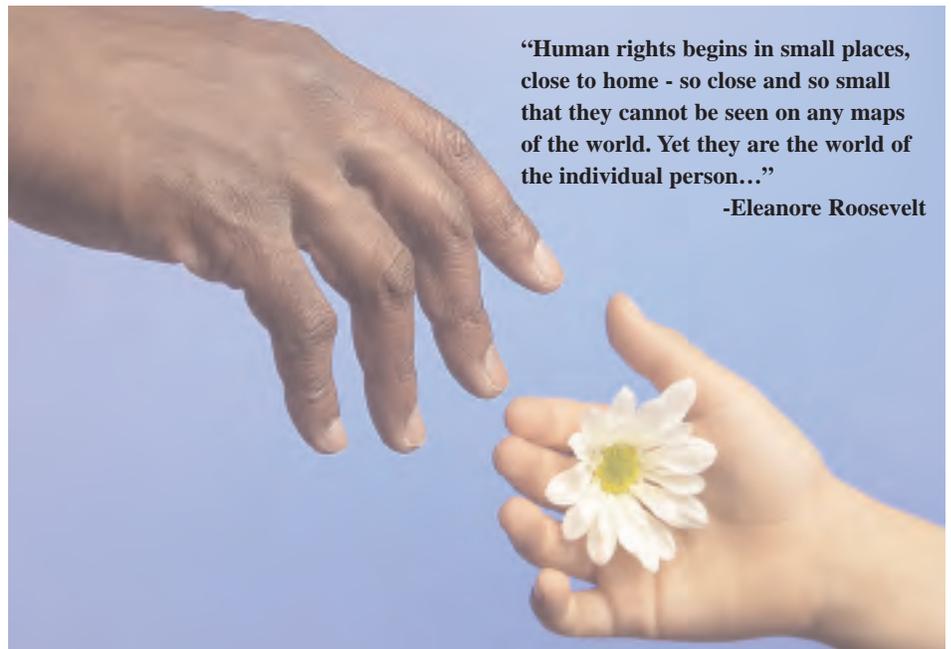
From Christiaan's Desk:

Our HQ wrote a congratulatory letter to President-Elect Obama, and wished to see the USA be a leader in the UN. Most of you will have seen that letter or will see it in the next Interdependence. I myself find that letter lacking. Being a leader we are, by sheer size of our economy and the placing of the UN. Being a constructive leader is what we need to become. We need to sign treaties, we need to pay up dues, and we need to show that we know what it means to negotiate as if we are peers with the other members of that unique body.

As I write this little blurb, the G20 summit is over, the big three up there in Detroit begged for help and our mayor has joined others in demanding federal funds as well. Many people have objections to the "bailout", having some deep belief that the market will self-correct. We all know that markets do that, but at what social cost? We are clearly in a situation where the world markets are in such turmoil, that a governmental intervention is warranted, re-assessing the old Keynes' doctrines of the Government as player and overseer. However, unlike the days of Keynes, no government can handle the current crisis alone. Hence the G20. I am glad that the current crop of politicians, whether willingly or unwillingly, are abiding by the

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CELEBRATE THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA



"Human rights begins in small places, close to home - so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual person..."

-Eleanore Roosevelt

On **Wednesday Dec. 10** the UNA-GP will host a celebration of the 60th anniversary of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at **The Ethical Society** on 1906 Rittenhouse Square.

Enjoy **live music** by the South African singer and activist **Sharon Katz** and be **ready to learn a thing or two about the impact of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**. **Local artists have been invited to read poetry, decorate the halls and uplift us all.**

This **FREE** event will start at **6:00 PM** and will include **free food and a cash bar**.

Sponsored by WILPF Philadelphia Chapter, CARE Action Network, Ethical Society of Philadelphia, Africa Studies Center of University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Global Water initiative and Philadelphia Public Health Student Council.

RSVP to info@una-gp.org or 215-241-5738.

THE UNITED NATIONS AT 63

Report on the United Nations Month, 2008: UNAGP Library Project

Purpose: To kindle interest in the United Nations through the Public Library

In order to make the point that the United Nations is still valuable we felt that one of the most receptive audiences with which we could share that belief would be the school children of Philadelphia.

We selected the public libraries as the venue. The libraries have a LEAP program after school where teenagers assemble to study and socialize. We knew that no longer does every child learn about the UN as a part of the social studies curriculum: Teaching about the importance of the UN has fallen out of favor in the United States. A new vocabulary which includes terms for “problems without pass-

ports,” “global terrorism” and “global warming” has arisen in the 63 years since the UN was born.

We wanted students to understand that the next president of the United States will have to look to the U.N. to help solve these and a host of other thorny issues. We wanted to begin with a few of the libraries and see what resources would be needed and what population could we tap to mount a program that would be effective.

Fortunately, our president as a faculty member at the University of Pennsylvania was able to call upon students from his classes

and groups with which he comes in contact and awaken their interest in the project. Tiffany Ng with her UNICEF committee and Tiffany Wang’s ad hoc group “Volunteers for Community Outreach” were willing to engage. Members of these groups attended a workshop on September 27 where Wayne Jacoby, Christiaan Morssink, Gillian Gilhool and Marietta Tanner spoke about various aspects of the project, i.e., how the UN works, why should UN be supported, using the web to reach students, decorum, the nature of

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Water Ambassador Program

On Saturday, Nov. 8, students from high-school to graduate school, high-school teachers and community leaders gathered to become advocates for clean, accessible water of humanity.

During the workshop community water advocates presented on a variety of issues including water-shortage and accessibility, to what each individual can do to help the crisis. Dr. Christiaan Morssink engaged the group about why water is a scarce and valuable resource. Morssink also relayed personal stories of travels to Cameroon where he came into contact with all issues pertaining to water including infant mortality, gender discrimination, disease-control and



education, which resounded with participants bringing home the reality of this global crisis. Ellen Schultz, a representative from the Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center spoke about Philadelphia water policies and history, shedding light on water at the local level.

Interactive and engaging community activists from Abington high school gave an entertaining

presentation illustrating how water becomes polluted, the length some people must go to get water and what each person can do to conserve water. The high school students also talked about the W.A.S.H. program where they raise funds to build wells and water facilities for those who need it most. This year the group is raising money to build water facilities in New Delhi.

The attendees from the workshop will be now water ambassadors where they will go out into the community to educate others about the world water crisis. The water ambassador program is sponsored by Philadelphia Water Initiative and UNA-GP

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the students and planning and delivering appropriate lessons.

Marietta Tanner with Tiffany Ng visited to Central Branch and met with Betsy Orsburn and Joe Benford. Ms. Orsburn contacted all of the branches. We offered a 40 minute discussion with children about the United Nations. We would give the library a book and give booklets or pamphlets appropriate for children to the most outstanding child. Ms. Tanner visited each library to deliver a large poster and the books, but not always prior to the visit as had been the intent. Fourteen libraries originally responded:

- ❖ Richmond Branch.
- ❖ West Oak Lane Branch
- ❖ Parkway Central Children's Department.
- ❖ Lawncrest Branch
- ❖ Bustleton Branch
- ❖ Kingsessing Branch
- ❖ Haverford Branch
- ❖ Chestnut Hill Branch
- ❖ Charles Santore Branch
- ❖ Wyoming Avenue Branch
- ❖ Roxborough Branch
- ❖ Whitman Branch
- ❖ Lillian Marrero Branch
- ❖ Cohen Ogontz Branch

Because we had not planned well in advance, we had to limit our program to fifteen branch libraries. We spoke with children in approximately grades 4 through 12. While we have not spoken with all of the speakers, we learned that most felt they were effective in encouraging the children to share their ideas about world governance. We found that knowledge about the UN was generally abysmal; we hope that we did spur them to

learn more about the United Nations.

We hope to have an evaluation session with the speakers within the near future. We were able to give an appropriate book about the UN to the child who showed the most interest and knowledge of the UN at the end of the session and to donate a book and poster to the Library through the generosity of Wayne Jacoby, who opened to us his storeroom at Chestnut Hill College.

We feel that UNAGP should expand this project; we should encourage the library board to acquire additional current books and visuals about the United Nations and include these books in the next acquisitions budget. We would want to be better structured and have enough lead time to develop a well-informed cadre of speakers and conduct a libraries student/facilities evaluation so that the sessions would be stronger.

We would like our president to write to the mayor in support of a full complement of neighborhood libraries as being cost effective even in the budget crises. One thing that we saw as we visited was that many children were there using the facilities. Next year, with better planning, we can serve them better.

- Marietta J. Tanner
Member of the Board
of UNAGP



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new reality of a need for multilateral governance of the economic systems. Let's hope that friend and foe will learn to work within these new paradigms.

One more thing. We are a membership organization. But unlike WHY, our chapter is also a volunteer organization. We have embarked on a few new projects, from libraries to water and network building, using students and interns. But that is not enough. We need volunteers. To begin with, we need volunteers for our celebration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on December 10th. I will hear from you.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR OUR LIBRARY PROJECT.

PLEASE STEP FORWARD

Mayor Nutter has plans to close 15 libraries, due to budget constraints. Several groups have stepped forward to see if they can help. We want to help too. Lets see if we can join forces with groups such as, PCCY, AAUW, the American Librarian Association, neighborhood block captains, community organizations and others to prevent these closures from taking place. If we all make a phone call or write to the mayor's office, that will help a lot.

THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY.

Lifting the Burden

Did you know:

- 1.1 billion people around the world do not have access to clean water?
- Unsanitary water cause 80% of all sickness and disease?
- 42,000 deaths occur every week from unsafe water?

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This year, put down your Britia, and join UNAGP in World Water Day on March 22.

UNAGP is collaborating with UPenn Engineers without borders, Philadelphia Global Water Initiative and UPenn UNICEF to educate Philadelphians of the importance of water.

More information about these events coming soon!

Philadelphia Global Connection Project Update

The Philadelphia Global Connection Project is slowly taking shape. Tiffany Wang and Damon Kletzien are working on a template on a website and a brochure that can be used for the project. Three workstudy students from Drexel have applied for a non-paying job in this project and job descriptions will be send soon to Temple and UPenn as well. The ad hoc task force consists of Molly Roth of OICI, Mary Day Kent of CARE, Carol Jenkins of Temple, Monica Fauble of Drexel and Christiaan Morssink of UNA-GP. Their next meeting will be after Thanksgiving, time and place to be announced, and will deal with issues of workplanning, communication and budgetting. If you are interested in participating, please send a missive to president@una-gp.

Rowan University's Darfur Day a Success

Sudan survivors Garelnabi Abusikin and Dr. Abdel Gabar Adam took their message of life and despair in the Sudan directly to the Rowan University community this week to make them aware of their own personal struggles and how each individual can make a difference – even though they are thousands of miles away.

At Rowan's "Darfur Day" Adam, a Darfuri human rights activist living in Philadelphia, and Adusikin, a Darfuri Refugee who escaped Sudan through Egypt before coming to the United States gave the students a first-hand look into how genocide affects every aspect of Sudan life.

"Weeks of planning went into this event so that we could educate the Rowan community about

government, the exploitation of Darfuri women and the United Nation's aid efforts.

"The committee provided students with information, literature and games to help students further understand this humanitarian crisis," D'Amboise said. Nearly 30 students



recorded video messages being sent to President-elect Barack Obama and to Congress.

"I've really learned a lot," stated Jennifer Lipnickey, a senior American Studies major, and one of hundreds who stopped by to participate in the "educational" games and to get information. "I was aware of the situation in the Sudan, but after attending this event I feel much more informed," she said.

Through T-shirt sales and donations the event raised nearly \$500. The committee hopes the funds can help Abusikin travel back to the refugee camp in Chad where his family still lives.

"Our goal was to give students and faculty a better understanding of this humanitarian crisis," said D'Amboise. "We hope they will take action to help stop the genocide in the Sudan." D'Amboise and Rowan's PRSSA were recently recognized by National PRSSA with its Outstanding Chapter in the Nation Award and the Plank Center for Leadership in Public Relations Ethics Advocacy Award.



genocide taking place in the Darfur," said Leia D'Amboise, UNA-GP's fall intern and vice president of Advocacy and Diversity for the Anthony J. Fulginiti chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA), which sponsored the day-long event.

PRSSA's Darfur committee crafted an informative event in Rowan's student center. Tables with information and interactive activities focused on several "campaigns" such as unsanitary water conditions, China's relationship with the Sudan