From Christiaan’s Desk:

This is the first newsletter of 2010. It was long in coming. We simply did not get around to producing a newsletter during November, December and January. We did work on a slew of projects related to water, public health, human rights and advocacy; however, we did so with very few warm bodies. My own warm body experienced a really deep sense of being blue, even deeper than what John Lee Hooker or Louis Armstrong could vocalize. Our organization, the UNA-USA, needed to lay off staff to stop financial losses; all chapters, including our own, were losing members, and to top all that, our government and our elected representatives crushed the hopes of Copenhagen. Furthermore, President Obama dismissed the idea of signing the ban land mine treaty, (see www.icbl.org for a partial retraction of that dismissal), seems to have no interest in stopping the use of cluster bombs, and has the audacity to talk about world peace while keep feeding the military-industrial complex. My audacity of hope has been punished severely and I have reached again that point of just trying to

A Year of Crises: Opportunities for Change

United Nations Association Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference &
2010 UNA-USA Members’ Day

Friday, 19 February 2010
9:30 am to 4:30 pm
United Nations Headquarters, New York

The UNA-UNA Southern New York State Division invites you to the United Nations headquarters in New York to attend the Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference and the 2010 UNA-USA Members’ Day. This FREE of CHARGE event is open to the public, though prior registration is mandatory. Members and non-members both are welcome.

Amid urgent public concerns about the world economic crisis, the dangers of nuclear weapons, and the continuing war in Afghanistan, the 2010 conference will feature the following three panels:

Afghanistan: From Ramping Up to the Exit Ramp
Hitting the Reset Button on the Global Economy
Turning Back the Bomb: Hard Cases and Grand Designs

This event is a unique opportunity to learn about the crucial role the United Nations plays in addressing the most pressing challenges of our times.

Register online at www.unausa.org/MembersDay2010 by 12 February 2010.

Be a member, Find a member,
Nominate a board member.
Make suggestions, we listen
keep hope alive, regardless of the daily signals of impotence from Washington, DC.

So what do we do to keep our hope for global citizenship alive? What can we do after a good look in the mirror and saying to ourselves, “Get Up, Get Going. Find your friends, Keep fighting. It’s in the grave that you will find rest. SO ONWARD!” We need to keep educating, and two projects are doing that. We have our library project running, not fast, not spectacular, but running. We need to keep educating/advocating the candidates who run for an office on that hill in DC. We need also to reach out to our old members, finding new members and learning to do canvassing all over again.

We need also to reach out even more to student groups to talk about working abroad, to understand the importance of seeing the Philadelphia scene in a global perspective. For example, the disasters of Haiti have now reached a point that several students in engineering, public health, environmental science and international students have expressed interest in doing a project over the summer. We are collaborating with other organizations, including PGWI, and are awaiting the return of Aldo Magazzeni (founder of Travelling Mercies) on what is feasible and effective. We are throwing our support behind the work of CARE (see elsewhere in the newsletter) and other groups that do good work in the context of the UNMDGs. Our website has been re-modeled and updated and is now managed by Ritwik Lodhiya. He seeks input from you to make this website fresh, up-to-date, highly functional and a good resource for all who want to learn about the UN. We have started a listing of collaborating organizations, so that we can feed each other with info for the citizens who want to learn how to put the adjective "global" in their lifestyle. There is a group of denizens who actually want to get Philadelphia as a city to become global. After all, the legacy of William Penn should be used, not just honored or neglected. UNA-GP is proud to be a founding member of this group, the Global Philadelphia Association, which is close to becoming operational with a dedicated website that strives to connect all of Philadelphia on the issues of thinking, acting, moving, shaking, or feeling "global". In the next newsletter we will come back to this association.

Based on these trends, and back to the reality of the daily struggles, we step forward with energy and zeal. Let's Keep Hope Alive, Let's keep working for human rights, decency and dignity in human affairs and for a sustainable life for our young ones.

Christiaan

From Our Friends

Legs Against Arms 5K Run/Walk

April 11, 2010
St. Joseph's University
Race starts 8:30 am
CLICK HERE TO REGISTER NOW

For race day details, a printable entry form, to donate, or for more information please visit www.legsagainstarms.org

"Striding Towards A Safer Philly"

PSR is dedicated to reducing youth violence in Philadelphia. Violence, particularly from handguns, is an epidemic in our city. Join us at the 4th Annual Legs Against Arms 5K to raise awareness about the impact of gun violence, to support youth violence prevention initiatives, and to honor those tragically lost to violence.

Join the UNA to fight violence everywhere.

Maybe your friend doesn't know how to join the UNA, give her a hand.
In Haiti, UN Workers Endure the Strife as Part of the Job

Barbara Crossette, February 3, 2010

Jens Kristensen, a 48-year-old Dane in the UN’s Haiti mission, had been trapped for five days in a coffin-size space under the rubble of his office when an American rescue team found him, miraculously alive. Bruised, dehydrated and no longer able to keep track of time, Kristensen nonetheless sized up the disaster all around him, skipped trauma counseling and was back at work within three days.

People do not join the UN for a life of luxury, John Holmes, the under secretary-general for humanitarian affairs, said at a recent briefing sponsored by the United Nations Foundation. “They are used to working in difficult places.”

Even by those standards, Haiti is exceptional. Holmes said that UN workers have been sleeping on crowded floors, packed “like sardines.” They have to do without regular meals, desks or showers, “straining every nerve” to keep working while overcoming the psychological shock of knowing that so many of their colleagues are dead……..

Please read the full article on www.unausa.org

Help Haiti

UNA-GP and PGWI are taking stock of students and other volunteers who can and want to spend energy and time in Haiti during the summer. Our friend Aldo Magazzeni is on his way to Haiti to take stock and report back on possible projects. If you are interested to join this possibility, please send an email to info@una-gp.org. Please note also how much the UN is contributing. Visit www.UNAUSA.org for more details on how you can help financially.

Membership counts most when called to help. WE NEED YOU.
On Thursday, March 4 at 7:30 p.m., CARE will bring the best-selling book “Half the Sky” to life onscreen for a special one-night-only event in movie theatres nationwide. Visit www.halftheskylive.com for more information and to purchase tickets starting Feb.5th.

Inspired by moving stories from the critically-acclaimed book “Half the Sky” by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, Half the Sky LIVE will feature an uplifting night of music, celebrity discussion and the world premiere of “Woineshet,” a powerful short film directed by Academy Award® winner Marisa Tomei and Lisa Leone that chronicles the struggles of an Ethiopian woman who triumphs over violence and discrimination. Half the Sky LIVE will feature appearances by Marisa Tomei, Michael Franti, Angelique Kidjo, Nicholas Kristof, Sheryl WuDunn, Dr. Helene Gayle, and other celebrities and political figures. The exclusive two-hour event is sure to be one of the most visible International Women’s Day celebrations on the planet. Approximately 30 percent of ticket sales will support CARE’s work in more than 70 countries.

Featured on Oprah, CNN, and Dateline NBC, “Half the Sky” remains a New York Times bestseller and is a critical favorite across the globe. Tom Brokaw says the book’s stories about real women “will pierce your heart and arouse your conscience.”

From Human Rights Watch

Iraq: Cluster Treaty Approval Should Inspire Neighbors to Join

"Iraq has experienced first-hand the devastating effects of cluster munitions, and its government has promised never to use this weapon...Whatever excuses Middle East governments have given for not signing this treaty, Iraq’s example shows they won't hold up."

Sarah Leah Whitson, Middle East Director

Other Signatories From the Region are Lebanon, Tunisia

December 9, 2009 (Beirut) - Middle East and North African governments should follow Iraq’s example and sign the International Treaty Banning Cluster Munitions, Human Rights Watch said today. Iraq signed the treaty on November 12, 2009, joining only two other countries in the region - Lebanon and Tunisia - as signatories to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which prohibits the use, production, transfer, and stockpiling of these weapons.

"Iraq has experienced first-hand the devastating effects of cluster munitions, and its government has promised never to use this weapon," said Sarah Leah Whitson, Middle East Director at Human Rights Watch. "Whatever excuses Middle East governments have given for not signing this treaty, Iraq's example shows they won't hold up."

US-led Coalition forces used large numbers of cluster munitions - which leave behind lethal submunition duds that can kill for years - in Iraq in 1991 and 2003. During the Gulf War in 1991, the United States, France, and the United Kingdom dropped 61,000 cluster bombs containing 20 million submunitions in Iraq and Kuwait. In 2003, the US and UK used nearly 13,000 cluster munitions containing an estimated 1.8 to 2 million submunitions during the three weeks of major combat. The United Kingdom has signed the treaty, and France has ratified it, but the United States is not a signatory.

From Our Friends

Half the Sky -- LIVE
An Uplifting Evening of Songs, Stories and Celebrity Discussion

On Thursday, March 4 at 7:30 p.m., CARE will bring the best-selling book “Half the Sky” to life onscreen for a special one-night-only event in movie theatres nationwide. Visit www.halftheskylive.com for more information and to purchase tickets starting Feb.5th.

From Our Friends
Although Iraq is not known to have used cluster bombs before 2003, the country produced, imported, and stockpiled the weapons. Cluster munitions have been used in other parts of the region - in particular in Lebanon, Kuwait, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Libya, and Western Sahara - with ongoing devastation and loss long even after the conflicts have ended. Egypt, Iran and Israel also have produced cluster munitions; Egypt and Israel have exported them.

The need for an international treaty to ban cluster munitions became even more evident after Israel's massive use of these weapons in southern Lebanon in 2006. These weapons left large swaths of the country contaminated by the deadly unexploded submunitions, which since the end of fighting have killed or wounded 218 civilians as well as 47 people who were trying to locate and remove them.

"Civilians, often children, are the victims of cluster munitions, which to this day continue to kill and maim innocent people throughout the Middle East from conflicts long since ended," Whitson said. "Iraq, Lebanon, and Tunisia should persuade neighboring governments to help create a Middle East free from these vicious weapons."

The Convention on Cluster Munitions represents a major advance in protecting civilians both during and after armed conflict. In addition to banning cluster munitions, it requires the clearance of affected areas within 10 years and destruction of stockpiled weapons within eight years, and includes assistance provisions to help affected nations with clearance and victim assistance.

A total of 103 countries have signed the convention, which opened for signature in December 2008. Twenty four have ratified it, though none are in the Middle East. Thirty ratifications are needed for the convention to enter into force and become binding international law.

"The next step is for the governments of Iraq, Lebanon, and Tunisia to ratify these treaties, and to demonstrate leadership in the efforts to ban this weapon permanently."

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Excerpts from the article:

**After the Catastrophe In Copenhagen, It's Up to Us**

Johann Hari, December 21, 2009

...Buried deep in our subconscious, there still lays the belief that our political leaders are collective Daddies and Mummies who will – in the last instance – guarantee our safety. Sure, they might screw us over when it comes to hospital waiting lists, or public transport, or taxing the rich, but when it comes to resisting a raw existential threat, they will keep us from harm. Last week in Copenhagen, the conviction was disproved. Every leader there had been told by their scientists – plainly, bluntly, and for years – that there is a bare minimum we must all do now if we are going to prevent a catastrophe. And they all refused to do it....

...There was plenty of disgrace to go around in Copenhagen. The world's worst per capita warmer is the US, yet its President turned up offering a pathetic 4 per cent cut by 2020 – and once you factor in all the loopholes his negotiators demanded, he was actually demanding the right to a significant increase in US emissions. He caved to the oil and gas lobbies who virtually own the Senate. It was – apart from anything else – a terrible betrayal of his own country's national security. In 2004, a leaked Pentagon report warned that un-
checked global warming would ensure "disruption and conflict will be endemic ... [and] once again, warfare would define human life."...

Our leaders were given the scientific facts, and they have responded by trying to haggle with the facts about the atmosphere. Imagine a 50-a-day smoker who goes to his doctor and is told he must stop immediately or he will develop lung cancer. He says: "I'll tell you what, doc – I'll cut down to 40-a-day, I'll eat a salad every lunch time, and I'll slap on a few nicotine patches. How does that sound?" That's the official response to global warming.

Where does this leave us all? At least we know now: scientific evidence and rationality are not going to be enough to persuade our leaders. The Good Daddy isn't in charge. Nobody is going to sort this out – unless we, the populations of the warming-gas countries, make them. Politicians respond to the pressure put on them, and every single politician at Copenhagen knew they would get more flak at home – from their corporate paymasters and their petrol-hungry populations – for signing a deal than for walking away.

There is only one way to change that dynamic: a mass movement of ordinary democratic citizens. They have made the impossible happen before. Our economies used to be built on slave labour, just as surely as they are built on fossil fuels today. It seemed permanent and unchangeable, and its critics were regarded as deranged – until ordinary citizens refused to tolerate it any more, and they organised to demand its abolition.

There need to be non-violent direct action movements to this in every country on earth (and a much bigger one in Britain). Copenhagen had one value, and one value alone. It has shown us that if we don't act in our own self-defence now, nobody else will.

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From our friends. "Cinema Libre Studio" news@cinemalibrestudio.com

Dear Friends,

We've been very busy recently with an unusual campaign that ties to the back by popular demand theatrical openings of *The End of Poverty?* in New York, Los Angeles and soon Phoenix.

Last week was the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, an annual event where the world’s political and business leaders gather to “define and discuss key issues on the world’s economic agenda.” As a company dedicated to films that make a difference, we felt the world’s leaders should be talking about the widening gap between rich and poor in this world, and a system that perpetuates growth and consumption. Therefore, we partnered with *The YesMen*, on a series of *Davos videos*, a *parallel website* while suggesting some *new initiatives* for real change while at the same time as launching a petition campaign to gather signatures for our world leaders to take up *10 Solutions To End Poverty*.

Read the whole story [here](mailto:news@cinemalibrestudio.com) and ([and some legal reactions](mailto:news@cinemalibrestudio.com)) and make sure to check out what leaders such as *Bill Clinton*, *Queen Elizabeth*, *Prince Harry*, *Canada’s Prime Minister Stephen Harper*, *President Nicholas Sarkozy* of France and Germany’s *Chancellor Angela Merkel* have to say about ending poverty.

Thank you for your support of CLS’s filmmakers and our work.

The Cinema Libre Studio Team
There Is a New Street In Philadelphia

On February 4th the organization J Street Philadelphia was launched.

J Street Philadelphia is working alongside communities across the country to secure a Jewish, democratic Israel at peace with its neighbors.

The Philly launch event was in the national spotlight as J Street Executive Director Jeremy Ben-Ami broadcasted a call to action live to thousands of supporters at local gatherings across the United States. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn more about J Street Philadelphia and join brainstorming groups to move forward our common pro-Israel, pro-peace agenda.

More info: [http://www.jstreet.org/philadelphia](http://www.jstreet.org/philadelphia)

UNA-GP intends to endorse all peace seeking movements, abiding by the legacy of William Penn. PEACE,Y’ALL!!

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Tell Your Senators that the United States Cannot Protect War Criminals!

**Crime Against Humanity:** a widespread and systematic attack directed against a civilian population that involves murder, enslavement, torture, rape, arbitrary detention, extermination, hostage taking or ethnic cleansing.

In the last hundred years more than 60 million people have been victims of crimes against humanity. To this day these crimes are occurring in places like Darfur, Sudan and loopholes in U.S. law allow these criminals to seek safe haven in the United States.

According to the Department of Homeland Security, over 1,000 criminals have found safe haven in the United States. Under current law these individuals, like Marko Boskic, an alleged player in the murder of 7,000 boys and men in the Srebrenica massacre in Bosnia, cannot be prosecuted for the grave human rights violations they have committed. **Let us ensure that another criminal like Boskic is never allowed to be shielded from prosecution in the United States.**

There is hope; last June Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL), Patrick Leahy (D-VT), and Russ Feingold (D-WI) introduced the 2009 Crimes Against Humanity Act which closes these loopholes in U.S. law that allows perpetrators of these crimes to seek safe haven here. **Please send a message to your Senators asking them to support and co-sponsor the 2009 Crimes Against Humanity Act.**

Anu Joshi, National Outreach Coordinator

P.S. As Senator Dick Durbin states: "The United States led the first prosecutions for crimes against humanity in the Nuremberg trials, following the Second World War. These horrible crimes, however, are still taking place. Our promise to hold accountable those who commit the most unspeakable crimes will ring hollow unless we lead the world in punishing those responsible for the gravest human rights violations."
American Engagement Caucus in Congress

There is an active, bipartisan movement under way in congress to establish an American Engagement Caucus that holds great promise for a constructive US foreign policy towards and with the UN. Please visit the website of our friends, www.globalsolutions.org for details. Write your congress(wo)man to urge joining this caucus.

Save the Date:

March 3: Chestnut Hill Conference "Zones of War, Zones of Peace"- Carlos Vargas, an international law expert, will discuss how one country, Costa Rica, has abolished its army, and also led in the successful struggle to free a whole continent from nuclear weapons. The conference at Chestnut Hill College will focus on how we can increase conflict-free zones and reduce threats of war around the world. The program will include an informal discussion and networking period for panelists, including Carlos Vargas Pizarro, Professor Jackie Reich, and Ed Aguilar of PNA, with college participants and the general audience. Chairman Craig Eisendrath will keynote a lunch, at 12:30 p.m., followed by the panel. Chestnut Hill College, 9601 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, PA, 19118.

March 8: Celebrating International Women's Day, International House, 3700 Chestnut Street - a collaboration of the UNA-GP, African Studies Center and Women's Campaign International. For more information: visit www.womenscampaigninternational.org


April 30 to May 2: PNA Youth Video Project, for the Non-Proliferation Review Conference, Peace Rally, and Festival- Both PNA and Bang-USA youth will attend the Nuclear Disarmament Conference at the Riverside Church, 490 Riverside Drive, N.Y., and national peace demonstrations to follow on May 2 in New York City. About 20,000 or more demonstrators are expected, and Bang-USA.org, our youth affiliate, will help to build attendance, with an exciting Youth Video Project on the web. People will provide their own transportation to New York, but there may be car and van pools, so please inquire if you're interested. More info in the next newsletter.

June 4-6. UNA-USA on the Hill. Advocacy days in DC. More info in the next newsletter.

Please visit our website for more events that are being planned and look out for e-alerts that may come your way by email. If you have an email address, please help us save on paper, stamps and printing and send us that information.

We need more members and we need more active members. If you can, please volunteer. There are many more things we can do if we can rely on a robust volunteer corps. We have work study students who can coordinate, we need organizers for events; we need speakers who can educate; we need advocates who can speak truth to power; we need members who talk to members. Please step forward. Shoot us an email. Info@una-gp.org
UN Mission 'failing' in DR Congo

The United Nations peacekeeping operation in the Democratic Republic of Congo has failed to disarm Rwandan Hutu fighters, UN experts say.

According to a 93-page report for the UN Security Council, leaked on Wednesday, this has exacerbated conflict in the north of the country.

The report said that despite the mission in North and South Kivu provinces the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) was continuing to recruit and arm fighters.

Read the whole article on our website. [www.unausa.org](http://www.unausa.org)

Our member Damon Kletzien strongly suggests, especially for those-still-not-organized YPICers, the reading of

**The Way We'll Be: The Zogby Report on the Transformation of the American Dream**

The American dream is in transition; it is rapidly being redefined by four meta-movements: living with limits as consumers and citizens; embracing diversity of views and ways of life; looking inward to find spiritual comfort; and demanding authenticity from the media, our leaders, and leading institutions. Spearheaded by today’s eighteen-to-twenty-nine-year-olds—the “First Global” generation—Americans are becoming more internationalist, consensus-oriented, and environmentally conscious and less willing to identify themselves by the things they do to earn or spend their money. But this is more than a youth tide. Americans of all ages are moving beyond old divides—red state/blue state, pro-life/pro-choice, beer drinker/wine connoisseur—to form a new national consensus that will shape the nation for decades to come.
The United Nations Intensive Summer Study Program will be offered from Monday, July 26 to Friday, July 30, 2010, by the John C. Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations at Seton Hall University and the United Nations Association of the USA. Designed for advanced undergraduate and graduate students, this unique program immerses participants in the political dynamics of the United Nations. Students will attend official sessions at United Nations headquarters as well as briefings at UNA-USA. Directed by Dr. Courtney Smith, Associate Dean at the Whitehead School, and offered in cooperation with UNA-USA, the course is designed to familiarize students with the inner workings of the United Nations by bringing them together with distinguished practitioners working in the field of multilateral diplomacy. The program is structured around a series of seminars led by U.N. officials and representatives of governments and civil society on a wide range of global issues currently on the U.N. agenda.

Logistics:
Participants can expect to be immersed in activities 12 hours a day for the full week of the program. Each day commences with breakfast at Seton Hall, followed by a chartered bus to the U.N. Program sessions continue throughout the day at U.N. plaza, with dinners provided on campus in the evenings. Students will also have time for cultural activities in New York City. On-campus single rooms with an adjoining bath are available from July 25th to July 31st. Participants may also choose to commute to Seton Hall for the duration of the program.

Requirements:
The program offers two enrollment options: credit and non-credit. Successful completion of either option results in a certificate from the Whitehead School of Diplomacy. In addition, the credit option allows students to earn three semester credit hours from Seton Hall University. Prior to the beginning of the course, participants will be responsible for preliminary course readings and a short paper. All sessions of the program are mandatory and students are required to actively participate in dialogue and discussion with guest speakers and peers. Students attending for credit must also keep a journal documenting their reactions to the briefings and submit a research paper one month after the program ends. Graduate students will complete extra readings and an additional writing assignment.

Tuition & Fees:
1. Credit Option:  
   a. Undergraduate: $2500  
   b. Graduate: $2600  
Both include expected tuition fee for three credits plus a non-refundable deposit covering transportation between campus and the U.N., most meals, U.N. tour, and briefing materials.
2. Noncredit Option: $1000  
   Includes a non-refundable deposit covering transportation between campus and the U.N., most meals, U.N. tour, and briefing materials.

How to Apply:
The application materials can be downloaded from the Program website: http://www.facebook.com/1/5f711;www.shu.edu/academics/diplomacy/un-program.cfm  
The application deadline is May 1, 2010. Students will be notified of their status by May 15, 2010.

For additional information, contact Dr. Courtney Smith at (973) 313-6203 or courtney.smith@shu.edu
UNA-USA launches the 2010 Membership Drive!

Chapters and divisions across the country, as well as all individual members, can create personal Membership Drive Pages to track their membership recruitment efforts.

On July 1 we will tally up the results and our top participants will receive exclusive membership benefits. Rewards and Incentives range from recognition in UNA-USA publications to $500 Chapter Development Grants!!

- Click here for a full list of rewards and incentives.
- Please visit: www.unausa.org/membershipdrive, to find excellent Membership Resources, such as Talking Points, Fact Sheets, Brochures, etc.!
- Many chapters have already created Chapter Team Pages. Click here to find your chapter’s team page and work with them to recruit members and educate Americans about the vital work of the United Nations.
- Please click here to create your personal log in, set up an individual or team page, and start recruiting members today!!

Together we can not only build our chapters, but can also contribute to UNA-USA as a whole and to the critical U.S. – UN Relationship! Thank you for joining a movement of Americans who support responsible global leadership and a strong United Nations!

All the best,

Liubov Grechen
Director of Membership, National Membership Department | UNA-USA