From Christiaan’s Desk:

This month flew by in a heartbeat. Memorial Day weekend is coming up!! So what happened? Well, our student friends at Drexel held their first event, a forum on "Iran and Nuclear Disarmament" on May 7th. Congratulations, Elias and Marco. Earlier in the month, many of us were in New York where we got involved with the anti-atomic bomb events. Last week, Rev. Bob Edgar was honored by the Project for Nuclear Awareness.

The UNA-GP spent a lot of effort these last weeks on preparing a team of volunteers for a 'global citizen education' program at the Furness High School over the coming summer. We recruited several students from Drexel through their Co-op system and Michelle Horton and Judith Okello will be supporting our organization in that capacity. Michelle had a to make a quick visit to Haiti and she wrote a short blurb for this newsletter.

Our membership situation still needs attention! More volunteers are still needed to help with several events that we intend to organize in the coming year. More about that will be presented at the annual meeting.

Come One, Come All!
Bring friends, grandparents, neighbors, and colleagues to the

UNA-GP ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Wednesday June 23rd, 2010
4.30PM to 6.30PM

The Ethical Society, 1906 South Rittenhouse Square

Keynote Address:

ANNE CRETER

Working at the United Nations for a Culture of Peace

After that:

- Presentation of our Summer Program of Outreach and Education at the Furness High School
- Marietta Tanner: Our Library Project
- President's report:
  Where are we going with our Chapter?
- Treasurer's report: What to do with all that money?
- Nominating Committee: Who joins, who leaves, who stays? Our recommendations.

There will be a cash bar and light refreshments will be served
Talking about our annual meeting on June 23rd, where we will have a great keynote speaker and where many of the volunteers will present their ideas about the summer program, please make an effort to come and bring a friend. There will be refreshments and we will make sure that there is time to write checks, fill out membership forms and the like.

Our annual meeting follows the UNA-USA meeting in Washington, D.C. on June 6th, 7th and 8th (see page 5). Mike Felker and I will once again talk to the young staffers of congress(wo)men and senators on June 8th. Before that, there will be a keynote address by the Secretary General of the UN, and I expect that many touchy businesses will be discussed following the austerity measures at HQ and the departure of Tom Miller.

Our YPIC members in our midst have opted for a garden party (see page 6) in July, a week after the national holiday weekend. We hope that you all can come and enjoy some good company of like-minded multilateralists. The party is a fundraiser for a school/clinic project in Haiti.

Lastly, we have been asked by UNA-USA about their communication to the membership. We actually do not know what most members think about the emails and alerts that come from New York. Please be so kind and shoot us a line about your opinion on this matter.

Take care and do good work,

Christiaan

Anne Creter,  
“Working at The United Nations for A Culture of Peace”

Anne Creter was a past state coordinator for the U.S. cabinet level, Department of Peace campaign, which currently has over 70 sponsors in the House of Representatives. This national Department of Peace campaign is grounded in UN-related international efforts. As NGO representative to the United Nations for Operation Peace Through Unity, she is co-chair of the “Culture of Peace” Working Group of the NGO Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns. The “Culture of Peace” Working Group of the United Nations NGO Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns is leading an international civil society “peoples” effort to pass a UN Resolution in the General Assembly encouraging ministries or departments of peace in all member states.

Anne Creter serves as UN Liaison to the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace, from having been District Team Leader in her congressional district, as well as New Jersey state co-coordinator of the U.S. Department of Peace campaign.

“We have an opportunity to shift our policy efforts towards the HIGH road; to help create a Culture of Peace... Young people, the next generation, are part of this thinking. Senior citizens have a fine opportunity to support and promulgate ideas that can leave a truly better world for our children and grandchildren. Join us [in discovering] how you can make a difference, create a new dominant worldview where peace is standard and normative.”

Come hear Anne Creter speak at the UNA-GP Annual Membership Meeting on June 23rd
After the Disaster: A Drexel Student’s Work in Haiti

I had the wonderful opportunity to go to Haiti from April 26 through May 2, 2010 with four University of Pennsylvania nurses, sponsored by the Foundation For Peace. We stayed at the "Love A Child" compound (an orphanage), where a field hospital had been set up since January and is now slowly fading out. During the day, we worked down the street at Camp Hope, the American Refugee Committee’s smallest “tent city” refugee site. I worked as an Emergency Medical Technician and “Pharmacist” in the medical clinic throughout the week assisting the nurses with assessment and treatment, as well as dispensing medicine under direct supervision. I also spent a portion of my time interviewing patients, medical personnel, and staff that I encountered, to get an idea of how patient care has transitioned since January. The work we did was to get a feel for how Haiti and its needs have changed, how medical care is being delivered, what follow-up care looks like and so forth. There was plenty going on and I wondered how clear all the channels of communications were between patients, various medical teams, government, and NGOs inside Haiti.

I really want to go back to Haiti and work with a strong, willing, enthusiastic team. I got the 'Haiti' bug. I intend to focus on water; access to clean, healthy drinking water in these refugee camps as well as controlling waste. Also, there is need to provide the tools and knowledge to farm and have sustainable food production that is best suited for their environment.

Michelle Horton
(UNA-GP co-op student)
A report from the Jordan Watershed:

A Child's Wish: 'I want no one else in Israel ever to be hurt by a landmine'

Friday, 21 May 2010, The Independent (UK)

Daniel Yuval, 11, injured in the Golan Heights in February, has launched a campaign against landmines.

His stride is so firm that it's a moment before you even notice that he is fitted with a prosthesis where his right leg was, before it was blown off by a landmine planted in the Golan Heights more than four decades earlier. It's not just that he managed to walk his first steps within a month of his injury, or that he has already made up for all the time he lost from school. He has persuaded a majority in the Israeli parliament finally to support clearing some 260,000 landmines that currently hold hostage an area about the size of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv together – 1 per cent of Israel and the Occupied Territories.

It was back in February that Guy and Tali Yuval, Daniel, their other son and three daughters, decided to make a detour to the Golan Heights, where snow had freshly fallen, on their way to Haifa. They walked into the Mount Avital nature reserve. There were other families relaxing there already. "We threw snowballs and played around for about five minutes," said Daniel. "Then I remember taking a step forward and I heard the explosion. For a few minutes I don't remember much. My father picked me up."

Recognising that his son's leg had been severed by a landmine – which had also poured shrapnel on to his sister Amit – Mr. Yuval applied a tourniquet to Daniel's right leg while gripping the left one, also bleeding from shrapnel. "I was suddenly alone now," he remembered. "And we were in the middle of a minefield." Not knowing where other mines might be, Mr. Yuval followed the footprints left by his family and others to make a grim, ginger, 10-minute journey back to safety.

It was later that, as Daniel wrote in a letter to all 120 Knesset members, he realised the full extent of what had happened, and what it meant. "When I awoke from the surgery at the hospital and saw my amputated right leg," he wrote, "I told my Mum that I wanted no one else to ever be hurt by a landmine, and that I mean to do something about that."

Since then he has launched a high-profile campaign, in which he has managed to speak to a range of senior government figures and to a meeting of the parliamentary Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, whose chairman Tzachi Hanegbi is now promoting a bill to set up a mines clearance authority.

"...Mr. White [founder of Survivor Corps] told The Jerusalem Post this month: "In the international landmine campaign, we had a tipping point with Princess Diana... Daniel Yuval is the tipping point where Israelis woke up. Every year there are Palestinians, Thai labourers and even cattle who are injured by mines, but this time it really hit home. This was the next generation, playing in the snow."

Daniel is anything but starstruck by his visit to the Knesset. "I hope I will make a big change, but I haven't seen that change yet. The bill has to go through the Knesset three times before it becomes law. Only when it will pass will I make a big change."

Nor is he impressed by security arguments in favour of preserving the mines. "People are always inventing a new story not to remove the landmines." Accepting that a minority of the mines may have to remain at some of Israel's borders, he says: "There should not be mines where people travel."
UNA-USA Council of Chapters and Divisions 2010 Annual Meeting

Opportunities, Advocacy and the Way Ahead

Special Guest and Keynote Speaker:

H.E. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations

June 6-8, 2010
Washington, D.C.

H.E. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, will join UNA-USA at this year's Annual Meeting in Washington, DC as Keynote Speaker.

Please join us from June 6-8 for one of our most important Annual Meetings ever. Meet our new President Ed Elmendorf, former Chair of the Council of Chapters and Divisions, mingle with chapter leaders and activists from across the country, participate in skills-building sessions, learn how to build your chapter's membership, raise funds, and host excellent events and programs!

This year's Annual Meeting theme is **Opportunities, Advocacy and the Way Ahead**. This meeting represents our best opportunity to meet, learn and strategize, so we hope you can join us!

The Annual Meeting is a great way for new and prospective members to find out more about UNA-USA and to learn how to get involved in UN related issues and activities nationwide. Topics will range from human rights and climate change to UN financing and advocacy.

Featured this year is the important **Day on the Hill**, a not-to-be-missed opportunity for activists to demonstrate to members of Congress, the strong public support for active US participation in the United Nations.

**Click here for the full Meeting Program!**

*We hope to see you in June!*
Please join our YPIC friends for a party of food, drinks, fun, and serious discussions. They are raising funds to build a school in Haiti. A guest speaker will provide impressions of Haiti six months after the quake. Bring friends, family members, and hire a babysitter for your little ones. Don't forget to come with your big checkbook!

Remember, Haiti needs your help!

When: 4:00PM Sunday July 11th, 2010
Where: 146 Pelham Road, Philadelphia, PA 19119
RSVP to: office@una-gp.org