Things to remember:

- Board Meeting on June 7th, 6-7:30 PM. 3401 Market Street, Suite 202.
- UNAUSA Annual meeting for all members; includes “Day on the Hill”. Venue the Hilton Arlington from June 12-14, 2011. For details: www.unausa.org
- June 12 Reception following the play “RUINED”. See page 5 in the newsletter [Click here].
- June 23 Annual Membership meeting MKL Room at AFSC. See agenda to the right —>
- Hold the date: July 17th 4:30 to 9PM: International Justice Day and Annual Garden Party.
- September 20th, 7 PM: Choir presentation on the eve of Peace Day. Details to follow.
- September 21st, International Day of Peace. Agenda of action details to follow.
- October 16th, World Food/Hunger Day. Events are in the planning stage. This year’s theme is “food prices”. Please visit: [http://www.fao.org/getinvolved/worldfoodday/en/](http://www.fao.org/getinvolved/worldfoodday/en/)
- October 24-29 UN Week. Planned activities: PNA’s JOHN HAAS PEACE AWARD (tentative Oct 26) and Fifth Annual Conference of Philadelphia Global Water Initiative.
- December 10th International Human Rights Day. Details to follow.

### Annual Membership Meeting JUNE 23, 2011

4:30 PM till 7:00 PM

Martin Luther King Room
American Friends S.C.
1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia

**Agenda:**

4:30-5:00 Meet and greet (several displays of current initiatives will be presented by volunteers, work study students and committees)

5:00-5:05 Welcome and setting the agenda

5:05-5:30 Guest Speaker Ed Aguilar of the Project for Nuclear Awareness: “Update on the global policy discussions re Nuclear Disarmament”


5:50-6:10 Report by the President (a written report will be uploaded on our website on June 17)

6:10-6:20 Motion to accept the amended bylaws (a copy of the proposed bylaws is available [here](#)). Please write if you want a paper copy mailed to you.

6:20-6:30 Report by the Treasurer (copies will be available at the meeting)

6:30-6:45 Report from the nomination committee including voting on the recommendations of the committee

6:45-7:00 Q and A and announcements

7:00 PM Adjournment.

Please note that each member can nominate board members for a vote before and during the membership meeting (with the approval of the nominee). Nominations before the meeting can be received by sending a message to [info@una-gp.org](mailto:info@una-gp.org) or to our address 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19104. Relevant materials for the meeting such as president’s report, Haiti Committee and others, will be uploaded on our website. We will send no paper copies, other than upon request.

The UNA-GP has been doing more local oriented work and we have developed a rather large volunteer bank and will be holding regular volunteer workshops. We are applying modern social network communications, our meetings on Monday mornings at the Science Center and since recently on Thursday evenings at the ‘UN Café’ bring young people with energy and good intentions into the fold. Much is changing and it is important for us all to stay informed and engaged, even while the pace of change is remarkably fast. Please come to the membership meeting, renew your commitment to promote the multilateral approaches of international relations that are the hallmark of UN’s success. Stay involved!!
Renewable Energy Could Account For 80 Percent of World’s Needs by 2050:
by MICHAEL CASEY

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates -- Renewable sources such as solar and wind could supply up to 80 percent of the world's energy needs by 2050 and play a significant role in fighting global warming, a top climate panel concluded Monday.

But the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change said that to achieve that level, governments would have to spend significantly more money and introduce policies that integrate renewables into existing power grids and promote their benefits in terms of reducing air pollution and improving public health.

Authors said the report concluded that the use of renewables is on the rise, their prices are declining and that with the right policies, they will be an important tool both in tackling climate change and helping poor countries use the likes of solar or wind to develop their economies in a sustainable fashion.

To read more visit our website: www.una-gp.org

Meet our interns and volunteers!

Emilie Benda, from Temple University, went to high school in Evanston, Il and participated in Model UN for three years. She was also an active member in the school’s Israeli Culture Club. Emilie is interested in the world at large, especially the cultural make-up of nations, and wants to learn about how countries interact on a global scale. Today she is a Political Science major with an Economics minor, hoping to further educate herself on how to work on global issues. Emilie is keen to learn things that the average person may not know, but that are tantamount for working effectively in global intercultural settings.

Emilie’s major role in the UNA-GP has been working on our website and creating a social networking group, which will allow our members to connect with each other as well as with the United Nations and the world. Weekly she adds news items to the website that have been (selectively) ignored by major US media outlets, deemed unimportant. She also wants to create a way for volunteers and UNA-GP members to interact and created a Facebook group (both private and public) that is meant to serve that purpose. Emilie is very impressed with all the events, and work that the UNA-GP is doing and hopes to continue her work in international areas. Please take the time to visit our Facebook page, and “add” us or “like” us to show your support.

Donate a bit of money, donate a bit of time, gift the gift of membership to your friends and neighbors, and why stop there? Ask your boss to join UNA-GP!
Justice? Revenge? A Pyrrhic Victory?
Osama bin Laden, the longtime leader of al Qaeda, killed by U.S. forces, May 02, 2011.

The decade-long manhunt for the mastermind of the worst terrorist attack on U.S. soil ended north of Pakistan's capital on Monday, as American commandos killed al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden in a pre-dawn encounter. The Saudi exile had been the world's most wanted man since the September 11, 2001, attacks on New York and Washington that killed nearly 3,000 people. News of his death, announced by President Barack Obama, drew cheering crowds to the streets of New York and the gates of the White House.

UN OFFICIAL STATEMENT

"Acts of Terrorism are the antithesis of human rights, in particular the right to life. In certain exceptional cases, use of deadly force may be permissible as a measure of last resort in accordance with international standards on the use of force, in order to protect life, including in operations against terrorists. However, the norm should be that terrorists be dealt with as criminals, through legal processes of arrest, trial and judicially decided punishment. Actions taken by States in combating terrorism, especially in high profile cases, set precedents for the way in which the right to life will be treated in future instances.

In respect of the recent use of deadly force against Osama bin Laden, the United States of America should disclose the supporting facts to allow an assessment in terms of international human rights law standards. For instance it will be particularly important to know if the planning of the mission allowed an effort to capture Bin Laden. It may well be that the questions that are being asked about the operation could be answered, but it is important to get this into the open."

World’s poorest countries better placed for transition to green economy – UN report – (9 May 2011)

The world’s least developed countries, which have low-carbon profiles and rich natural assets, are better placed than their industrialized counterparts to make their economies more environmentally sustainable because they are less dependent on fossil fuel-based technologies, according to a United Nations report unveiled today.

Released to coincide with today’s opening of the Fourth UN Conference on Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in Turkey, the report notes that richer countries face substantial costs to reduce their emissions of the hazardous greenhouse gases, while the world’s poorest nations can avoid those constraints by maintaining and expanding sustainable economic activities they are already utilizing.

The report, prepared by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS), points out that low-carbon, labour-intensive agriculture and community-based forestry are sustainable practices that have existed for decades in LDCs and are crucial in the “greening” of those sectors.

The report, entitled Why a Green Economy Matters for the Least Developed Countries, shows that new opportunities offered by a green economy will help LDCs meet their Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the internationally agreed poverty reduction and social development targets that have a 2015 deadline.

Structural constraints, including dependence on fragile agriculture, limited access to energy and low economic diversification, which have previously prevented LDCs from significantly reducing poverty and achieving higher rates of development, resulted from investments and policies that undervalued the importance of the economic sectors most relevant to the livelihoods of the poor, according to the report.

To read more visit our website: www.una-gp.org
Philadelphia, May 15, 2011

Dear Members,

On June 12th, the UNA-GP is holding a reception at the Philadelphia Theater Club, the Suzanne Robert Theater, on 230 South Broad Street, following the matinee performance of the play RUINED. This reception is co-sponsored by the Willow Grove Branch of the NAACP. During the reception, members of the group Women in War Zones will discuss their involvement with the plight of the female victims of war atrocities still ongoing in the Eastern Congo.

The reception is a fundraiser, shared equally between the sponsoring groups and the Panzi Women's Hospital in Bukavu, Sud-Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo. The price for the performance and the reception is $60. Checks can be made out to UNA-GP; write “ruined” on the subject line.

I am writing this letter because I know that you care about the plight of victims of war everywhere and that you are particularly interested in stemming the tide of abhorrent abuses of women during times of war. It does no good to label rape and mutilation a war crime, if we cannot follow through with punishment and sanctions. On the ground, that means giving women the means to defend, the means to overcome fear, and the assurances that justice will prevail. The UN peace-keeping forces are in place, but they lack global support, they lack in numbers and they could stand to gain much when the democracies of the donor countries take a much stronger stand for exemplary peace-making and skillful implementation of the protection of human rights.

I invite you to join us on the 12th of June. Please find elsewhere a note about the play. If you cannot make it, consider giving a donation. We have a list of at least 10 students, who would like to go but cannot afford the expense.

Hope to hear from you soon.
Stay Well, Stay Active, and don't forget to use all means of democracy necessary!!
Christiaan Morssink
President
RUINED
A play by
Lynn Nottage
SAVE THE DATE!
SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 2011,
3 P.M

You are invited to see a formidable performance at the Philadelphia Theater Club, The Suzanne Robert Theater,
230 South Broad Street, Philadelphia.

“A strong, absorbing and never less than compelling play,” the New York Times

SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 2011,
3 P.M
The Philadelphia Theater Club, Suzanne Robert Theater,
230 South Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

In war-torn Congo, Mama Nadi keeps the peace between customers on both sides of the civil war by serving up cold beers and warm beds. Ruined is a probing and courageous work celebrating human strength and dignity with humor and song in the face of immeasurable loss.

At the reception following the production, meet local activists of the Women in War Zones project in support of the Panzi Hospital, where doctors specialize in reconstructive genital surgery for women and girls, victims of the continuing war for plunder in the Congo.

The event is a benefit for the Willow Grove Branch of the NAACP, the United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia and the Women in War Zones Project.

Please make checks payable to UNA-GP, 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19102

Buy Choice Seats Now! Tickets are $60.00

For further information, contact Marietta J. Tanner at Mariettan@aol.com or info@una-gp.org.
Statement on Nuclear Free Zones in Asia and Africa

On May 2, 2011 at The White House, the President submitted the Protocols to the African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty and the South Pacific Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty to the U.S. Senate for its advice and consent to ratification. This step advances the President’s commitment to nuclear non-proliferation and to the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons.

Regional nuclear weapon free zone agreements reinforce both the commitment of nations not to pursue nuclear weapons and the nearly 65-year record of their non-use. The protocols to the treaties, once ratified, will extend the policy of the United States not to use or threaten use of nuclear weapons against regional zone parties that are members of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and in good standing with their non-proliferation obligations.

President Obama has put forward the piece of the puzzle for treaties for signing in the senate as part of the non-proliferation treaty. While the senate is hesitant to sign these types of documents, the UNA-GP is always for signing treaties, and we are urging our senators to push aggressively for signing of this treaty. We also encourage our members to write to their senators, so this can be passed and we can focus on other important issues as well. See these websites for more information:


As a next step, the United States will engage parties to the two other regional agreements in force, in Southeast Asia and Central Asia, so that we can sign the protocols to those treaties as soon as possible.

Meet our interns and volunteers.

Joshua Dylan Stevenson is a junior at Drexel University, majoring in International Area Studies with a concentration in language, arts and literature. He hopes to bring a greater awareness of UNESCO into our local community. One of UNESCO's core areas is Education, so Joshua volunteered to help the Global Focal Point program during his co-op.

The UNA-GP Global Focal Point program continues to grow and we expect great results. Christiaan Morssink recently addressed the faculty at University City High School about the program. He spoke about our vision for using the program to educate young people about global citizenship, highlighting the need to instill a sense of the United Nation's missions within young people. The Global Focal Point is a daily reminder. Volunteers installed a “United Nations Station” in the library space, which now has three computers, a router and materials related to the UN. Volunteers are currently developing lesson plans and a presentation to the student body, scheduled for June 9th. At the same school, volunteers helped Librarian Julie Davis with the University City High School's Earth Day celebrations. Joshua spoke with students about the UN and sustainable development.

Members also attended a gala event for the re-opening of the library of the Andrew Jackson School (Elementary and Middle School). We began our Global Focal Point project requested by community members, and Principal Lisa Kaplan was very much interested to collaborate. At the gala she presented UNA-GP with a plaque of appreciation for being a community partner. We had a chance to speak with parents, teachers and community leaders about Global Focal Point and our mission to help create global citizens in Philadelphia. We have just begun at Andrew Jackson, and look forward to a great partnership. We are developing a design for the space, and Principal Kaplan has specifically asked for our help in developing a program to help students learn about self-government and self-determination.

UN Café! An experiment

Stephanie DeMora is a volunteer who studies Arabic languages at Drexel and has earned her keep as a coffee shop employee for the last three years. She has offered to participate in an experiment and be the UN Café Manager for the summer of 2011. This experiment is possible because of the generosity of the Grey Lounge and Social Club, which had donated space earlier for a fundraising event and was willing to provide space on the upper floor of their establishment during low traffic days. Hence our UN Café will be on Thursday evenings, from 6PM to 8PM. Our first event was last Thursday (May 19th) hosting the YPIC folks. Stephanie is rapidly putting a schedule in place, assisted by Kayla Rosencrans, and with support from the lounge manager Darin. Here is the plug that Stephanie wrote for our newsletter:

Dear members, that is, retirees, professionals, Students, Graduates, fellows from Oxfam, Care, PYN, Drexel Alumni, UN Soccer Club, Engineers without Borders, YPIC, Global Nursing club, and any other individual interested in helping our planet!

Please join us in our café meeting every Thursday where we will be discussing important world affairs, including but not limited to nonproliferation treaties, nuclear arms, windmills, fashion, international jobs, fair trade, organic farming, green and eco-friendly solutions, weapons, business in the world, international travel, south to south cooperation, trade between developing nations, nonprofit finance, public health, craftsmanship, sexual freedom, Burqa Ban, etc. Our café will provide the right ambience to be serious without being too serious, to join a pleasant event before going to the movies, a restaurant, a play, or whatever else you can find in the neighborhood of our locale. Join us for some entertainment, discussions, specialty beers, wine tasting, country food, book signings, film clips, artist showcases, DJ, Music etc.
Volunteer Workshop Plans Moving Right Along! ADVOCACY this time.
By Manisha Patel.

On April 30th UNA-GP held its second volunteer workshop, “Advocacy for Opinionated Citizens”. One of the most common reasons stated by volunteers when joining UNA-GP is their personal interest in advocacy work. This workshop brought volunteers together and started a great discussion on everything that advocacy entails.

Pre-workshop tasks involved working out an agenda, working on an invitation, as well as constructively using our newly launched Facebook group event page to notify people about the workshop. Christiaan worked on a presentation, while Manisha, our volunteer coordinator researched the UNA-USA to find some supporting links and literature for that event.

The event was a successful start for volunteers to come together, where they were energized and ready to add their voice on issues they cared about. After a short introduction by Christiaan the group discussed how advocacy is done traditionally, as well as how advocacy can be done more effectively when developing a succinct mission statement. Discussions continued towards how advocacy can be done individually as well as a team, and how it could be targeted. Identifying and knowing your audience are highly relevant for effective advocacy, and advocacy can use various tools, including negative ones like bribery, threats, fraud and bait, but we focused on the more positive formats of critical analysis, proper data presentations, persuasive techniques, clarity of argument and insightful contextuality, especially regarding time horizons. We emphasized the need to seek synergy with different organizations, and social media outlet groups to produce a larger impact on the community.

Some things that were achieved at this meeting, are that two volunteers will form a “platform team”, that will host three advocacy meetings a year, organize an ongoing yearlong recruitment and involvement of interested, participating volunteers, using chat room and Facebook group/twitter formats for communication. Others will populate the Facebook group. The idea is to create our own advocacy work and also work in collaboration with others. We are committed to advocacy work and campaign throughout the year.

The next workshop will be held in the summer and the theme will be: “Without Communication we don’t exist. Communication tools for UNA-GP to survive and succeed.”

Donate a bit of money, donate a bit of time, give the gift of membership to your friends and neighbors, and why stop there? Ask your boss to join UNA-GP!
Playing with Planners!

Kayla Rosencrans is a junior at Drexel University majoring in Political Science. After graduation she plans on attending Law School to study Urban Planning Law. She has always been passionate about finding the beauty and good in broken things and Philadelphia has plenty of them. Urban Planning allows her to take this passion and use it to re-shape broken things and waste lands into new, vibrant, tangible, green and sustainable artscapes.

Kayla has been working for UNA-GP on a calendar/planner project, that not only includes important dates for the United States but also, events in countries around the world, United Nations days and weeks of observance, and, and this is key, local (Drexel) events so that these planners can be marketed and targeted towards our own local students, faculty and staffers. UNA-GP is exploring this work as a fundraising project. We are exploring making a planner for the Andrew Jackson School and the University City High School. The calendar/planner will be made solely with free input from volunteers and artists. Manisha Patel, who has a knack for artful photography is donating her work for the project.

We hope to make the calendars in collaboration with the schools/universities/churches/companies, and share profits. The main costs will be printing and paper. The planners should cost no more than $25.00, although we aim for $1; a wall calendar (for every classroom) may run about $10 (laminated).