YOU and your friends are invited to attend the UNA-GP annual Garden Party on Sunday, July 17th, from 5PM to 9PM. The party will be at 146 Pelham Road (19119). As usual there will be a buffet style food tent and there will be a well-stocked cash bar, and live music. The dress code is casual and the only rules pertain to civilized behavior and not falling in the pond.

This year’s theme will be International Justice Day. So there will be a program, as follows:

5-6PM: Arrival, Meet and Greet, have a drink and some food, listen to music and chat.

6PM: Keynote address by:

Adam Isacson
Senior associate of the Washington Office on Latin America (www.wola.org)
"Reaching Peace Requires Justice; the case of Columbia today"

6.30-7.30: Round table discussions at eight tables, each with a different topic of interest from a justice perspective. Each table will have a designated moderator; guests can move from table to table or stay at one the whole time. Topics range from fair trade, to immigration, gender issues, child labor, trafficking, ICC, rights of victims, water.

7.30-8.00PM Open Mike. A period of Q and A for the whole party, stimulated by good table discourse, good food and deep concerns about the state of affairs in the world.

8.00PM (tentative Showing of the documentary “Torture”)
9.00PM writing checks, signing petitions, renewing membership, joining the cleanup.

Going home.

(Please note that the results of the table discussions will be used to draft a four part seminar series for 2011-2012. Local chapters of Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Human Rights Campaign, National Lawyers Guild, WILPF, OXFAM, among others, have been asked to sponsor and participate in this event and in the seminar series)
Meet our interns and volunteers!

Hye Lim Park is a junior at Drexel majoring in Political Science and minoring in International Economics and Chinese. Born in Korea, she lived in Indonesia for two and half years, moved to China for a year, and is currently studying in the United States, a really broad exposure to many cultures. “Lynn” was a junior in high school in Kentucky, finishing her senior year in Montana. She has been a student at Drexel since 2008, and plans to go to law school, where she will focus on international relations and international law. Her dream job is to work in the International Justice Court.

Lynn is actively involved in three projects; the Global Philadelphia Association (GPA) project; making a lesson plan for the Global Focal Point Project focused on democracy; helping with the global financing project, along with Matthew Whitworth and Jean Marie Quassie. The theme of the financing project currently is narrowed down to "Impact of the Remittances and Micro-Finance Integrated Approach in achieving the Millennium Development Goals within the African Diaspora in the U.S and their Homeland in Sub-Saharan Africa." Lynn focuses on getting country background by collecting migration data, and data about international organizations (financial) working in South Africa. She is learning about the many issues around remittances, and about many different NGOs which are practicing microfinance; she is researching lists of women enterprises/cooperatives in Guinea, and finding out if any local U.S. citizens could be interested in a remit/microfinance joint-venture. In this project, Lynn reports mostly to our member Jean Marie Quassie.

UNA-GP has been a great opportunity for Hye Lim Park, making her feel much more involved in the UN, and what is happening in our society. She never had a chance to experience working with an organization that is so influential in the careers of the modern professional, and this CO-OP opportunity is a great chance to get involved in global issues.
LAST CALL !!!!!

UNA-GP Annual Membership Meeting 2011
JUNE 23
4:30PM till 7:00PM
Martin Luther King Room
AFSC
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”
5.30-5.50  Guest Speaker Aghigh Ebrahimi Bazaz :
           “The Launch of the Global Philadelphia Association”
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 by-laws (a copy of the amended by-laws is available on our website; please write if you want a paper copy mailed to you) UPDATE: A new by-laws template for each chapter has been received from UNA-USA (See website).
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 during the membership meeting. Nominations before the meeting can be received by sending a message to info@una-gp.org or to our address 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19104. Please note also that relevant materials for the meeting such as president’s report, Haiti Committee and so forth, 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!!
MESSAGE BY MR. KIYO AKASAKA
UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR COMMUNICATION
AND PUBLIC INFORMATION
UNITED NATIONS

ON THE

100-DAY COUNTDOWN TO INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE,
OBSERVED ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2011

13 JUNE 2011

September 21, 2011, marks the 30th anniversary of the International Day of Peace. As we begin today a 100-day countdown to the observance, we pay tribute to the many civil society activists who lent the strength of their imagination to the institution of this Day.

The United Nations General Assembly declared in 1981 that the Day shall be devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples.

It invited all Member States, the United Nations system, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, peoples and individuals to commemorate the Day in different ways, especially through all means of education, and to cooperate with the United Nations in the observance of that day.

Education, and the fruits of education, have been central to this observance.

Young women and men everywhere are demonstrating the power of connection by reaching out to each other, and rallying together, in the common cause of the dignity and human rights to which their peoples aspire.

It is in tribute to them, and the spirit they represent, that we have chosen this year, under the overall idea of Peace and Democracy, the theme of “Make your voice heard.”

The United Nations stands ready to work with the peoples in whose name the International Day of Peace was established to secure a world ready for, and worthy of, the peace that is essential to all creative human endeavour.

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FROM THE ARENA OF NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT:

MPI Calls for a Global Ban on Nuclear Weapons
News brief and world tour

New York, May 26. "It is urgent to begin collective preparatory work leading to the enactment of a universal, verifiable, irreversible and enforceable legal ban on nuclear weapons," declared the Middle Powers Initiative (MPI), a coalition of eight international disarmament organizations. This is the message of the forthcoming new brief from MPI, "A Global Law to Ban Nuclear Weapons"

In New York, MPI Chairman Ambassador Richard Butler AC presented the brief to governments at the United Nations, as part of MPI's ongoing consultative project to ensure implementation of agreements made under the Non-Proliferation Treaty and advance the United Nations Secretary-General's Five Point Proposal for Nuclear Disarmament, which calls inter alia for the development of a mutually reinforcing framework of agreements or a nuclear weapons convention. Ambassador Butler said, “The overwhelming desire of governments and people for the abolition of nuclear weapons requires practical action towards the elimination of these weapons of indiscriminate and mass destruction. Their continued existence threatens all and poses unacceptable risks.”

MPI Founder Douglas Roche, O.C., embarked on a world tour to present pre-publication issues of the brief to foreign ministries in Beijing, New Delhi, Moscow, Oslo, Sweden, Brussels, Berlin and London. Senator Roche, who was instrumental in the Canadian Senate and House of Commons adopting unanimous resolutions supporting such negotiations, said “Landmines and cluster munitions were banned by treaty once people realized the humanitarian consequences of their continued use. There is now a similar realization of the threat to humanity, not just if nuclear weapons are used but by the threat of use, their possession and their proliferation.”

Senator Roche’s world tour will include a series of the Singhmar Family Foundation Lectures, which will highlight the themes of his new book, How We Stopped Loving the Bomb, an illustration of how a global treaty banning all nuclear weapons would improve the security of everyone – including the nuclear weapon states.

In addition to meeting with foreign ministry officials in these world capitals, Senator Roche will also be presenting at a number of public events organized by civil society organizations, including events in Beijing (at the China Foreign Affairs University), New Delhi (at the Centre for Policy Research), Moscow (at the USA/Canada Institute), Stockholm (organized by the International Peace Bureau), Oslo and Berlin. To find out more about events in your city, contact Rhianna Kreger: +1 (347) 461-7901.

Contact: Ambassador Richard Butler AC +1 646 468-6299; butler@middlepowers.org
Senator Douglas Roche; +1 780 984-8292; diroche@shaw.ca; Alyn Ware; +1 646 752-8702; alvn@pnnd.org
For more information see www.middlepowers.org
The Global Philadelphia Association (GPA) was founded in 2010 by nine original member organizations, including the United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia. The UNA-GP played a prominent role in the development of the Global Philadelphia Association and continues in a leadership role within it. For example the UNA-GP coordinates the work of Drexel co-op students who do the heavy lifting of data collection and data entry; UNA-GP also makes it a priority to have non-profit organizations prominently displayed in the data base of the website.

The goal of the GPA project is to assist and encourage greater interaction among organizations and people who are engaged in international activity within the Greater Philadelphia Region. GPA is working to promote an international, constructive consciousness within the region, and to enhance the region’s global profile.

Check out GPA today at www.globalphiladelphia.org

Update from our friends at OXFAM
Philadelphia Oxfam Action Corps is a volunteer-led group working with Oxfam America to create lasting solutions to end hunger, poverty and social injustice. Our current campaign GROW, is a food justice movement to build a better food system, one that produces enough for a growing population and empowers poor people to earn a living, feed their families, and thrive. We hold speaker events, movie-screenings, hunger banquets, and petition and lobby our congresspersons about such issues.
Sherie Ruppersberger and Veronica Erenberg are the current Action Corps volunteer organizers for 2011-2012. Contact info for OXFAM is philadelphia@oxfamactioncorps.org. For more information about the Action Corps visit the blog at http://oxfamactioncorps-philadelphia.blogspot.com/
For more information about the GROW campaign go to www.oxfamamerica.org/grow

Is this the creeping hand of the state censorship at work?
French TV, radio programs slapped with social media restriction in Paris
By Catherine Clifford and Saskya Vandoorne, CNN

“A decree from the early 1990s, re-implemented by French regulators, is putting an end to French television and radio announcers naming social networking sites on air except for news purposes. The decree banned "clandestine advertising": the promotion of a brand outside the boundaries of recognized publicity avenues.

The reimplementation of the ruling by France's Superior Audiovisual Council means that French programs will no longer be able to urge their viewers or listeners to follow them on specific sites, such as Twitter, as has become the norm in worldwide broadcasting.”

Project for Nuclear Awareness (PNA):
Who We Are, and What You Can Do for Awareness of Nuclear Threats and Solutions
( By Christine Curry and Ed Aguilar)

The Project for Nuclear Awareness is a nonprofit organization in Philadelphia which seeks to promote and create the conditions for worldwide, complete nuclear disarmament through sophisticated educational and advocacy programs. PNA focuses on educating youth, particularly those students in college, graduate, and secondary school, with information and expert analysis on nuclear weapons issues.
PNA does not limit itself to educating youth; it also teaches participants how to work for action towards nuclear disarmament by those who can create the necessary remedies and solutions. The ultimate goal, through these educational programs, is to empower people to spread knowledge of nuclear issues, and their solutions, throughout the globe.
The current program The University Nuclear Education Series informs students and faculty at Drexel University, Temple, Arcadia, Widener, Jefferson Medical, Penn, Chestnut Hill College, and several other law schools about the New START Treaty, the movement for a Comprehensive Test Ban, and other progress toward our goal of complete disarmament of nuclear weapons.
PNA presents the Haas Award for International Peace and Justice. In 2009, the award was given to Hans Blix, the former Swedish foreign minister who was also the chief UN atomic energy inspector in Iraq in 1999-2003, and who sought to prevent the Iraq War. Dr Blix was also the chairman of the World Federation of UNAs. He chaired the International Commission on WMD, and has been a champion of total nuclear disarmament. In 2010, the Haas Peace Award went to Peter and Cora Weiss, and to John Loretz, representing the work of the World Court Project.

For information on PNA:  www.Projectfornuclearawareness.org
To contact PNA:  Call Ed, or Christine, at 215-546-3030; email infopna@gmail.com.

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!