SOUTH SUDAN NEWEST MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

“At this moment, in this place, the world gathers to say in one voice: ‘Welcome, South Sudan. Welcome to the community of nations’. Together, we salute the leaders of both North and South Sudan. They showed courage and commitment in bringing about a successful referendum that expressed the democratic will of the people... Together, let us stay true to the cause of peace, justice and opportunity for all.” – Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in remarks at General Assembly session on admission of South Sudan, 14 July '11

How does a new state or government obtain recognition by the United Nations? The recognition of a new state or government is an act that only other states and governments may grant or withhold. It generally implies readiness to assume diplomatic relations. The United Nations is neither a state nor a government, and therefore does not possess any authority to recognize either a state or a government. As an organization of independent states, it may admit a new state to its membership or accept the credentials of the representatives of a new government.

Membership in the organization, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, “is open to all peace-loving States which accept the obligations contained in the [United Nations Charter] and, in the judgment of the Organization, are able to carry out these obligations”. States are admitted to membership in the United Nations by decision of the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council.

P.S. The membership of South Sudan renews a neglected question. What is done about the non-membership of states that are peaceful, democratic and show no signs of failing. Where are we regarding Somaliland and Taiwan? And what is to stop Palestine from becoming a UN recognized state? Indeed, global politics is not done by clear and direct means, regardless of the success of good involvement in the last several years in South Sudan. CBM
There are many events organized in the city to commemorate Peace Day – Philly 2011. UNA-GP itself is directly involved in two specific events on September 21st, free and open to the public, as follows:

“Peace Talks” in partnership with Drexel University’s Office of International Programs (Heidi West):

Creative Peacemaking; rebuilding communities, healing identities, with confirmed speakers Sharon Katz, MA, South African Musician and Humanist; Dean Ravizza, PhD, Salisbury U. and Heidi West, MA, Drexel Office of International programs

1pm

Peace Visions: A world free of Nuclear Threats and Small Arms’ Menace; creating a path to nuclear non-proliferation and reduction of arms worldwide. Confirmed speakers: William Hartung, PhD, Center for International Policy and Jacqueline Reich, PhD, Arcadia U. (with support from the Project for Nuclear Awareness). 3PM

Address for both talks: Behrakis Grand Hall, Crease Building on Drexel’s campus, 32nd and Chestnut Sts.

Bridges to Peace: A Special Evening of Music & Dialogue with Intercultural Journeys

A music and dialogue program in partnership with Intercultural Journeys, a non-profit group co-founded by Udi Bar-David of the Philadelphia Orchestra. 7:30pm at the Ethical Society, 19th & Rittenhouse Sq.

Members of the UNA-GP are urged to attend these events and invite their friends, family, colleagues, neighbors and all members of their social networks to join.

Global Focal Point Program at University City High.
A glimpse into what we do.

Joshua Stevenson, our Drexel Co-op student in charge of the UNA-GP Global Focal Point program, has been working mostly on making lesson plans and implementing them over the summer at UCity High. He uses our vision to educate young people about global citizenship, highlighting the need to instill a sense of the United Nation’s many missions. Different coop students were involved, each addressing a specific topic. Aleksandra Jarosiewicz (see picture insert) and Joshua addressed global conflicts and peace. Using the lesson plan created by Aleksandra, she, Joshua and Mrs. Wilson, the teacher in charge talked to the class about peace and war, focusing on peace and the UN involvement in peace keeping and peace making. The students were quite eager to learn about international conflicts and solutions, such as the recent formation of South Sudan. They also learned about a decade of genocides in Darfur. The students showed knowledge about crime and war and showed empathy towards all the people who are influenced by them. The students were interested in spreading peace, learning that peace comes from within, and that if we all don’t work together as a community we will face many difficulties as a global community.

To further illustrate the effects of war and violence, a police crime map of Philadelphia was shown, illustrating all the crimes for the past month. The students were amazed to see how many pinpoints were on the map, and were struck by pins for crimes by their very own homes. Ms. Wilson’s touching speech explained how without peaceful people we cannot have peaceful cities; therefore we cannot have peaceful countries, and furthermore no international peace. The students saw a map of the world, displaying all countries with current wars and conflicts. This war and peace lesson inspired Ms. Wilson and the class to further discuss South Sudan. The students touched on the ICC (International Criminal Court) in that discussion as well.

The program with Ms. Wilson’s class was a successful experiment and we have been asked to continue the program in the fall, focusing on poverty and peace issues around the world, and the UN’s role in helping to reduce poverty and promote peace.

The next round of sessions with Ms. Wilson’s class will be in September, and it will be focus on how global problems are manifested in our local neighborhoods.

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!
The U.N. International Day of Peace, September 21, is a global day of cease-fire and non-violence observed in all 192 member states of the United Nations through a wide range of peace and non-violence activities. **Peace Day – Philly 2011** is an initiative of individual volunteers committed to peace action in the Philadelphia region, in affiliation with the United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia and the Alliance for a Sustainable Future.

Many projects and programs are being undertaken by the volunteers and work-study and coop student at the UNA-GP. The first big event that is coming up a mere five weeks from now is Peace Day Philly 2011, on September 21. Spearheaded by the tireless commitment of Lisa Parker, this program is an initiative of volunteers in affiliation with the U.N. Association of Greater Philadelphia and the Alliance for a Sustainable Future. You should have already received an announcement about a fact-filled page on our website and the Peace Day Philly 2011 team. I am writing this editorial on the letterhead that has been especially designed for this occasion.

The initiative is getting great attention. Mayor Nutter has written a statement in support and issued recently the statement:

> "William Penn imagined Philadelphia as a community where all people can live together in peace. As we look forward to the United Nations International Day of Peace, we must focus on creating a unified community where people feel safe. Peace Day is an opportunity to participate in events across the city that promote peace and non-violence.”

Also the school district is on board, not in the least because of the work of Charles Lumpkin, a great friend of UNA-GP. We received this notification from the office of Dr. Ackerman:

> "Observance of the International Day of Peace is an excellent way for our young people to recognize the importance of being respectful and tolerant of everyone that they encounter. The United Nations has been a leader in the effort to bring about global peace and I’m hopeful that this now 30 year-old event will help more of our young people choose non-violent means to express their frustrations. The information will be posted to our blog (www.phillyeducationblog.com) and other social media channels the week before school starts. The information will most likely be reposted to The Notebook (education blog), so it will get a great deal of exposure.”

I was reminded by the peace seeking folks at the AFSC that our 30th peace day fits between two other “grim” anniversaries, the 9-11 attacks in NY and DC, and the October 7th start of the military action in Afghanistan, “Operation Enduring Freedom”. We all may need to take some pause and realize that the operation indeed seems to be enduring. Making peace with steel and explosives is impossible. At the end of the day, it is the collective will to use non-violent means to address grievances and conflicts that makes Enduring Peace possible.

Christiaan Morssink,
President UNA-GP

---

**Peace Day – Philly 2011**

Greetings!

Many projects and programs are being undertaken by the volunteers and work-study and coop student at the UNA-GP. The first big event that is coming up a mere five weeks from now is Peace Day Philly 2011, on September 21. Spearheaded by the tireless commitment of Lisa Parker, this program is an initiative of volunteers in affiliation with the U.N. Association of Greater Philadelphia and the Alliance for a Sustainable Future. You should have already received an announcement about a fact-filled page on our website and the Peace Day Philly 2011 team. I am writing this editorial on the letterhead that has been especially designed for this occasion.

The initiative is getting great attention. Mayor Nutter has written a statement in support and issued recently the statement:

> "William Penn imagined Philadelphia as a community where all people can live together in peace. As we look forward to the United Nations International Day of Peace, we must focus on creating a unified community where people feel safe. Peace Day is an opportunity to participate in events across the city that promote peace and non-violence.”

Also the school district is on board, not in the least because of the work of Charles Lumpkin, a great friend of UNA-GP. We received this notification from the office of Dr. Ackerman:

> "Observance of the International Day of Peace is an excellent way for our young people to recognize the importance of being respectful and tolerant of everyone that they encounter. The United Nations has been a leader in the effort to bring about global peace and I’m hopeful that this now 30 year-old event will help more of our young people choose non-violent means to express their frustrations. The information will be posted to our blog (www.phillyeducationblog.com) and other social media channels the week before school starts. The information will most likely be reposted to The Notebook (education blog), so it will get a great deal of exposure.”

I was reminded by the peace seeking folks at the AFSC that our 30th peace day fits between two other “grim” anniversaries, the 9-11 attacks in NY and DC, and the October 7th start of the military action in Afghanistan, “Operation Enduring Freedom”. We all may need to take some pause and realize that the operation indeed seems to be enduring. Making peace with steel and explosives is impossible. At the end of the day, it is the collective will to use non-violent means to address grievances and conflicts that makes Enduring Peace possible.

Christiaan Morssink,
President UNA-GP

---

[peacedayphilly@una-gp.org](mailto:peacedayphilly@una-gp.org)  **Peace Day – Philly 2011**  [www.unagp.org/peacedayphilly2011.htm](http://www.unagp.org/peacedayphilly2011.htm)
HOLD THE DATE!!!

October 16th, **PHILLY WORLD FOOD DAY SYMPOSIUM**

Hopkinson House (tentative) 32nd floor, Time: 2-5 PM.
Facilitator: **Charlene Compher** (Professor at UPENN and board member of UNA-GP)
Keynote speaker (confirmed): **Marion Nestle** (Author and professor at NYU)
Panelist (confirmed): **Scott Poethig** (Corn geneticist at UPENN)
Panelist (confirmed): **Roxanne Christensen** (Entrepreneur and co-author of SPIN Farming)
Q and A, moderated by **Jackie McLaughlin**, board member of UNA-GP
Reception to follow.
Tables with information about World Food Program, about participating organizations, donation box and membership sign up sheets will be set up at the event.

October 24th, **PHILLY UN DAY: Media, the Arts and Human Rights Advocacy: Globalization, Human Rights and the Arab Spring.**

**Lara Dotson Renta**, lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania and project coordinator for the UNA-GP is taking the lead in organizing an afternoon and evening with speaker panels, a reception and a performance by Syrian-American political rapper **Omar Offendum**. Student groups from the region have been asked to participate. This will be a unique, action filled UN DAY celebration and we hope that all our members will attend this event at the Hall of Flags on the campus of UPenn.

---

Rotary Madrugadores and UNA-GP collaborate to bring you a benefit concert on the eve of the International Day of Peace. Please come and hear a beautiful concert by the 80 men of **Brothers in Harmony**

**Rotary Club of North Philadelphia Madrugadores Presents**

**A Concert for Peace**

**Featuring**

**BROTHERS IN HARMONY**

**Friends Center Historic Meetinghouse**
1515 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA

**September 20, 2011 7 PM**

$25 Donation
Tickets & Info: [www.madrugadores.ticketleap.com/concert](http://www.madrugadores.ticketleap.com/concert)

Production assistance provided by **PARTNERS for the AMERICANS**
African Horn in Desperate Chaos!
(from UN News)

As more and more Somalis, the majority of them women and children, continue to flee the famine in their homeland, United Nations agencies are ramping up efforts to meet the rising humanitarian needs, especially nutrition for the youngest among them.

On August 8th, the first emergency airlift by the United Nations' refugee agency in five years landed in the Somali capital, Mogadishu on Monday. It comes as part of international aid efforts to alleviate famine in Somalia and other areas of the Horn of Africa caused by the worst drought there in 60 years. Over 11 million people in the region have been affected by the drought and famine, which the UN High Commissioner for Refugees says has driven an estimated 100,000 Somalis to Mogadishu from various affected areas of Somalia. The conflict has hampered aid efforts in the famine-hit country, with the Al-Qaeda linked Al-Shabab militia barring some aid agencies from central and southern areas of Somalia that it controls. Getting aid into Somalia has been difficult because the Al-Shabab group, which controls much of the south and central regions and parts of the capital, Mogadishu, has banned some aid agencies from their territory.

The UNHCR (the UN High Commissioner for Refugees) chartered Ilyushin IL-62 cargo arrived in Mogadishu carrying over 31 metric tonnes of shelter material and other aid items from UNHCR's emergency stockpile in Dubai. The supplies include some 2,500 emergency aid packs containing such items as plastic sheeting for shelter, sleeping mats and blankets, jerrycans for water and kitchen utensils to collect and cook food. UNHCR has been shipping its relief items to Mogadishu by sea and by land but said that due an "unprecedented" rise in the number of civilians uprooted by famine, decided to airlift supplies in order to save time.

The UN says some 640,000 children are acutely malnourished in Somalia, while 3.2 million people are in need of immediate life-saving assistance. The UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) is scaling up its activities to assist refugees in Dadaab and surrounding host communities, delivering life-saving support in health and nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene and child protection. “Nearly half the children who make it to the camps from southern Somalia are malnourished,” the agency noted in a news release, adding that reports of children dying along the way from Somalia or just as they arrive at the camps are “disturbingly common.”

UNHCR has appealed for 145 million dollars to help victims of the Horn of Africa famine, which the UN estimates will persist until December "at least". So far, 65 million dollars has been pledged. UN agencies step up deliveries of food aid to famine-stricken Somalis.

PLEASE URGE YOUR POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVES TO SUPPORT IN FULL AND AS DICTATED BY TREATY THE UNITED NATIONS, THE UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING EFFORTS AND THE UNITED NATIONS WORLD FOOD PROGRAM. CALL, WRITE, VISIT, PLEAD, DEMAND!
Robert Fisk: Egypt's Revolutionary Youth are Being Sidelined
World Focus
Tuesday, 2 August 2011

“Revolution betrayed. The Egyptian army now colludes with the hated Muslim Brotherhood to bring you – well, a new Egypt that looks much like the old one, cleansed of Mubarak and most (not all) of his henchmen, but with the Army’s corrupt privileges (housing, complexes, banks, etc.) safely maintained in return for allowing the bearded ones a share in power. Cut out of the picture: the young and secular revolutionaries who actually fought Mubarak’s security thugs off the streets in order to rid themselves of the 83-year old dictator.

The picture is a grim one – Arab Spring turned into eternal Arab autumn. And the only bread and circuses to give the young Egyptians who demanded dignity in return for their courage will be the sight of the weary, disbelieving old lion in his iron cage at the Cairo convention centre tomorrow. Yes, provided for the angry youth of Egypt – and to those families of the revolution’s 850 martyrs – the trial of the company that used to run the whole shoddy enterprise, H Mubarak and Sons Ltd, all appearing in the cage the company chairman invented for his enemies. An ex-dictator gone to seed or a revolution gone to seed? The prospects aren't good. The youth and secular parties suspect tomorrow will be a one-day "opening" trial and then a postponement of a month or two to give time for the former company chairman to die in his bed back in Sharm el Sheikh. "But we are trying him, just like you asked us to," the army will say. And they will hold further meetings with the Muslim Brotherhood.

It's not just that Field Marshal Tantawi, head of the Supreme Military Council and friend of Mubarak, is running the show. Here, for example, is Major-General Mohamed al-Assar, member of the Supreme Council, telling the US Institute of Peace in Washington how jolly mature and co-operative the Brotherhood have become: "Day by day, the Brotherhood are changing and getting on a more moderate track," he told them. You bet they are. They took over Tahrir Square last week, demanding the new Egyptian constitution be based on sharia. But Tantawi, al-Assar and the rest of the gold-braid brigade will do anything to avoid the real change the original revolutionaries insist upon.

Instead of the destruction of the whole corrupt system, the revolutionaries are going to get "reform from within", along with the plump, middle-aged beards whose existence was the very reason why the Americans backed Mubarak in the first place. Later, no doubt, they can be turned into a threat again – once the spirit of Mubarakitism is back in place."

UK-Independent, 8-2-11.

A reminder to us all: UN Day October 24, 2011! (From UNA-USA)
Reasons to celebrate the UN?

The UN works in everyone's interest: Every day, the United Nations and its family of agencies work to improve people's lives throughout the world. With little fanfare or media attention, the UN delivers everything from emergency relief to vaccinations to counter-terrorism training. It resolves conflicts and keeps the peace in the world’s most dangerous places, and it supports elections and new institutions that build democracy.

The UN delivers peace and democracy: UN Peacekeeping Operations have over 120,000 troops and personnel deployed to 15 peacekeeping missions such as in Sudan, Cote d'Ivoire and Haiti. These operations prevent the collapse of weak states by supporting peace agreements, demobilizing combatants, facilitating humanitarian efforts, training police, and creating conditions for political reconciliation and elections. The UN continues to be the most cost-effective way to prevent conflict, keep the peace, and rebuild societies
emerging from conflict. According to the U.S. Government Accountability Office, having the UN run
the mission in Haiti was eight times less expensive than letting the United States run it alone.
The UN Development Program (UNDP) and UN peacekeeping support, on average, one free and
democratic election every two weeks somewhere in the world. In recent months, they have provided
electoral assistance in South Sudan, Cote d’Ivoire, Haiti, Iraq, Nepal, Afghanistan, Burundi, Liberia,
the DRC and East Timor, giving over 80 million people the chance to exercise their democratic rights.

**The United Nations promotes human rights:**
The UN works to defend and promote human rights through three key mechanisms within the UN
system:

1) Human Rights Treaties: Over the past six decades a number of human rights treaties have been
adopted to further develop international human rights standards, including the protection of women’s
rights, the rights of the child, and the rights of those with disabilities.

2) Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR): OHCHR works to promote and pro-
tect all human rights in the field by monitoring and reporting on human rights violations and strengthening the capacity of national institutions to provide adequate human rights protection.

3) Human Rights Council (HRC): The Human Rights Council is the only global intergovernmental
body addressing human rights; it is composed of 47 member states, elected for three year terms by
the General Assembly and based on equitable geographical distribution. The Council appoints spe-
cial rapporteurs – independent experts - on a range of subjects to investigate human rights issues and make recommendations for correcting problems. Their visits allow them to publicly Name and Shame human rights abusers around the world.

**The United Nations builds economic prosperity:**
Through multiple programs and agencies, the UN works to achieve equitable economic development
in all corners of the globe. The United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) provide a
global development strategy that has generated an unprecedented level of coordinated action within
the UN system, the donor community, and developing countries. The United Nations Development
Program (UNDP) works on the ground in 176 countries to help them attract and effectively use aid,
develop capacity, and eradicate extreme poverty. The United Nations Global Compact works with
businesses to achieve inclusive and sustainable economic development.

**The United Nations advances global health:**
Today, diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, and measles plague nations around the world. The UN brings together resources, experts, and partners that are instrumental in the prevention and treatment of global diseases.

Fighting the Spread of HIV/AIDS: The UN coordinates national and regional programs to aid the dis-
tribution of medicine and supplies and supports national responses to the AIDS epidemic in more
than 100 countries. This works is done primarily through the World Health Organization and the Joint
UN Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

Eradicating Polio: The UN has led the effort to eradicate polio and helped reduce the number of na-
tions with active polio cases to an all-time low of four. This success has been the result of an im-
poved vaccine and the intense efforts by the Global Polio Eradication Partnership, an effort of Rotary
International, the UN Foundation, the UN Children's Fund, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention, and the World Health Organization.
Stopping the Spread of Avian Flu: The avian influenza crisis began in Asia in 2003 and has since spread to parts of Europe and Africa. Given the nature of the avian flu threat, international partnerships have been vital in slowing the spread and preparing for a possible human influenza pandemic. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization are on the front lines of this fight, working in partnership with 14 other UN agencies.

Providing Vaccines: The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) supplies vaccines to more than 40% of the world’s children. Over the last 30 years, UNICEF and World Health Organization have been responsible for increasing the rate of vaccination of preventable diseases from 5% to 75% worldwide.

Please celebrate UN Day on October 24, 2011!

A Hapless Famine: How Global Currencies and Bureaucrats Dictate the Lives in Somalia
by Talha Malik, for UNA-GP, August 12, 2011

When a famine is declared in a country that is plagued with decades of civil war, suffers from extreme poverty, and is politically dominated by hostile militant groups, merely pumping money into a country is not going to fix the problem. However, until recently, while the drama unfolded, this was the political answer of the members of the UN in the case of Somalia. Moreover, while charity groups in many nations tried to sound the alarm bell and Bono vented his growing frustration on TV, financial upheavals in the centers of power, and lack of political will to identify the culprits in these financial “con” games, all together are sapping the energy and attention of politicians and businesses alike. In all this turmoil, the dying of tens of thousands of children and poor people in Somalia was being downplayed by bureaucrats, more interested in seeking efficacy for donations and transparency in Somalia than saving lives.

Most experts would agree that the famine in Somalia requires a multi-dimensional approach because of the combination of extreme poverty with Al-Shabaab’s erratic and ruthless behavior. Creating a sustainable food supply is proving to be difficult, and importing supplies by NGOs is an unknown variable on any day because of Al-Shabaab’s wicked habit to impose, at will, bans on foreign aid agencies, at least until recently. The hardest hit areas of the famine are southern Bakool and lower Shabelle which both are under the control of Al-Shabaab. Across the country, around 3.7 million people are in crisis, of which 2.8 million live in the south (1). Around 10.7 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance and it is estimated that about 7.5 million Somalis are displaced from their homes (1). On the ground, the United Nations has adopted a two-front strategy to counter the worsening food crisis. The first involves an immediate short term dispersion of food in an area of 640,000 children who suffer from acute malnutrition. The second method is framed for a long-term recovery process by reviving the local agricultural economies and creating a sustainable food supply. As of this writing, the UN World Food Program has provided aid to about 8 million people in the past five weeks and is attempting to target 11.5 million people for aid (2). However, resources for food,
refugee camps, and humanitarian assistance are dramatically decreasing due to the macro shifts in international markets. With a decline in the value of the US dollar and rapidly rising world food prices, donors are becoming increasingly reluctant to give money, thus resulting in increased famine and deaths.

Recent estimates show that commitments by donors and contributors are off by more than $16.7 billion (3). In fact, only 61 percent of pledged commitments by countries and donors have actually come through to the Horn of Africa. The UN recently called for an additional $300 million in food aid, but that has already been considered too low, as food prices per ton have increased dramatically. For instance, comparing this year’s food prices with those of 2002, food prices increased (in constant dollars) 204% for rice, 260% for corn, and 164% for wheat (3). Furthermore, the economic uncertainties in the OECD market mean that people there buy less food than they did before, which is primarily why donors aren’t following through on their commitments and promises. In short, donors are just hesitant to give aid to the famine because they don’t view it as a good investment. In several cases, donors such as Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece, and Ireland have just stopped being donors altogether because they want to prevent their own country from going bankrupt (3).

Also, the problem of Al-Shabaab still remains. Downplaying and minimizing the consequences of this famine would be an enormous mistake by the bureaucratic machines of the OECD countries and the International agencies. The start of the 21st century has shown that ignoring long-term turmoil and civil war in a country has often led to the creation of a more extremist right-wing or left-wing ideology manufactured by militants (i.e., Taliban, Tamil Tigers, Hamas, etc) or by xenophobic politicians in democracies in North America and Europe (e.g. tea party, Nationalists in Britain, LePen in France, Wilders in Holland).

The famine in Somalia is increasingly turning into a global shame. What good are those “sovereign” members of the UN, when they decide at will when they will and will not abide by the promises, treaties and commitments that are stated in the charter and have been expressed in many documents. We need to focus on our politicians, and demand from them that it is in our humanitarian interest to stay persistent in conceptualizing and implementing solutions.

Sources:

Following our UDHR Day on LGBT in 2010

In December 2010, UNA-GP addressed LGBT human rights issues. This summer the UN declared that LGBT discrimination should be considered a breach of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Now we have an opportunity to learn more and build on these developments. The Reverend Mark Kiyimba, a leader in Ugandan human rights and gay rights movements, will be speaking at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Cherry Hill, 401 N. Kings Highway, Cherry Hill, New Jersey on Saturday, September 3, 2011 at 7:00PM; the documentary “Homosexuality: The Last African Taboo” will also be shown. Rev. Kiyimba will also speak on Sunday, September 4 at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Philadelphia and on September 10 at 7PM at the Unitarian Society of Germantown. For more information about Reverend Kiyimba's talk, visit the church's website at http://uucch.org/uganda-minister-visit or email kiyimbarecept@gmail.com.
Hello UNA Mid-East Region Chapter Presidents,

I have recently agreed to be the chair of the Steering Committee Advocacy Group, or committee, and in that capacity, I will be working with UNA-USA staff to help chapters identify advocacy leaders and participate in the emerging Advocacy Corps. We are excited to be establishing the UNA Advocacy Corps which is a UNA-USA/UNA-NCA partnership to involve NCA members in activities that enhance national’s visibility on Capitol Hill as well as involving other chapters in state and district efforts to help members of Congress know that there is a constituency that supports the work of the United Nations. We will be sending additional information soon to all chapters and divisions.

Patrick Madden confirmed the 2012 annual meeting in downtown Washington, DC on June 9-12, 2012 at the Westin Washington (1400 M Street, NW).

Karen Mulhauser
President
United Nations Association of the National Capital Area
www.unanca.org

Information from Patrick Madden, director UNA-USA

Staffing:

- Renee Traynor, our new online communications associate. Renee will be handling the UNA-USA website, chapter website conversions, email communications and our social media. She will also be a great resource for chapters who would like guidance these areas. She can be reached at rtraynor@unausa.org.
- Joe Catapano, our communications officer. He will develop and implement the strategic communications plan that supports UNA-USA’s membership development, fundraising, media relations and advocacy objectives. He can be reached at jcatapano@unausa.org.
- We will finalize our program events manager in the next week. This position will work across UNA-USA’s departments supporting membership programs, Global Classrooms, the Council of Organizations, as well as logistics for our flagship events, such as the CCR-SC meetings, the Annual Meeting and Members’ Day at the UN. We expect our finalist to start in early September.
- Roger Nokes and Tanisha Dyall will move to Washington this fall. Liuba Grechen has opted to remain a New Yorker and her last day with UNA will be September 30.
- The editorial management of the ID will shift to a consultant position. The ID has a great deal of support within the UNF and I do not expect this to affect the delivery or quality of our flagship online magazine. Finally, the education staff will remain in NYC for this school year as we focus on raising more funds for the Global Classrooms/Model UN programming and continuing our vital partnership with the NYC public schools system.

Advocacy & The Hill

All members recently received a special advocacy message from me on Monday outlining the rough waters ahead for UN funding on Capitol Hill. We will begin regular email advocacy updates to the full membership later this month with information, talking points, and briefings on how things are progressing. We will need action from you and the members this fall to help reverse some of the funding bill that is proposed. During the week of Columbus Day in October we will ask chapters to visit their elected officials with in-district meetings. We need to put a face on the UN in our local communities for these Members of Congress.

Chapter Websites

Now that our communications team is in place, the staff will begin the process of converting chapter websites into the new templates. This is a major financial investment by UNA-USA on behalf of the chapters so we will need the commitment of key chapter leaders to make sure the new design is a reflection of the chapter and that it will be supported and updated moving forward. Chapters that opt-in for the website conversion will be responsible for the annual $420 hosting fee and be asked to identify the chapter volunteer responsible for updating the website regularly once the new chapter site goes “live.”

Patrick M. Madden
Executive Director, UN Association of the United States of America
Phone: +1.202.419.3222
Skype: PatrickMadden.UNAssociation

Model UN Documentary

UNA-USA has produced a documentary on its Model UN program, Global Classrooms. UNA-USA is planning a screening the week of October 3 in NYC. The screening (about 25 mins for all 3 episodes) will be followed by a short panel with the filmmaker, a few students and their teacher from Queens (all featured in the film). During the UN’s General Assembly week, we will release the film online and at that time it will become available to chapters to use in school, at public events or as a promotional tool. We also have a 30 second PSA which will be made available to chapters.