PROJECT FOR NUCLEAR AWARENESS, THE ETHICAL HUMANIST SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA & THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

ARE PROUD TO PRESENT A SCREENING OF THE FILM

IN MY LIFETIME
A PRESENTATION OF THE NUCLEAR WORLD PROJECT

Please join us in viewing this important film which presents the realities of the dangers of nuclear weapons and answers for finding a way beyond a world with atomic bombs.

After the Screening...

Q&A with the film’s Director and Producer, ROBERT E. FRYE

When: Earth Day
Sunday, April 22, 2012
5:00 - 8:00 pm
Where: The Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia
1906 S. Rittenhouse Square
Philadelphia, PA 19103

For more information go to www.projectfornuclearawareness.org

Photographs
1. Remnants of statues at the Urakami Cathedral in Nagasaki which was destroyed by atomic bombing
2. Hibakusha—survivors of the atomic bombings & members of the Himawari (Sunflower) Choir
3. Cenotaph in Hiroshima commemorating the victims of the atomic bombings
4. Hiroshima Peace Memorial—building that remained standing after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima

Photographs by Diane Love

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Meet the New Co-ops!

It’s that time already! Beginning on April 2nd, five new Drexel students began their internship with the UNA-GP. They will be with us for the next six months. The students are:

Ana R. Ciobanescu  
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3rd year  
arc63@drexel.edu

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rmj34@drexel.edu

Francesca L. Martelli  
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Andrew R. Young  
Political Science  
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Carolina's top picks from last month's UN News

Iraqi leaders must work together to resolve outstanding issues, UN envoy stresses  
April 10th, 2012  
The UN envoy stated that it is critical to make progress in holding a dialogue, disputed international boundaries and human rights in Iraq.  

Launch of DPR Korea’s satellite ‘deplorable’, says Ban  
April 13th, 2012  
After its failed satellite launch Secretary-General Ban ki-Moon encourages North Korea to focus on other issues within the country. Ban pledges to work for peace and stability within the peninsula.  

Construction of UN-supported hydro power plant begins in Sierra Leone  
April 4th, 2012  
As construction begins for the three-megawatt hydro plant, hopes are high for the potential outcomes. The hydro plant supported by the Government of China and the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) will provide electricity to the local community, upgrading their way of life.  

Africa and Asia to lead urban population growth in next 40 years – UN report  
April 5th, 2012  
Megacities in Africa and Asia are expected to dramatically increase in size by 2052. The main concerns for these urban populations are inequality within groups, pollution, and climate change.  

Titanic wreckage to be protected under UNESCO convention  
April 5th, 2012  
April 14, 2012 marked the 100 year anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic. The ship will be protected by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage grants remains of only 100 years or older to become protected.  

(Composed by Carolina Torres, cit23@drexel.edu)  
From Christiaan’s Desk:

Today, April 11, is the 10th anniversary of the ratification of the Rome Statue for the International Criminal Court -- truly a remarkable feat. Our board member Enid Adler has been a strong advocate in the development of that court through her work in the American Non-Governmental Organizations Coalition for the International Criminal Court (AMICC). Indeed, the existence of the ICC is something we can actually claim some credit for here in Philadelphia. As I wrote in a recent letter:

…..We all believe that the Constitution was a truly revolutionary document, establishing the principles of the Rule of Law and the principles of human rights to be upheld by law. So, too, was the creation of the ICC at a treaty conference in 1998 in Rome - an independent, international criminal court that would have jurisdiction over crimes against humanity, genocide and war crimes. Coming into force in 2002, the Court, with the trials and tribulations of building an institution, now is fully functioning as witnessed by its first verdict this week in The Hague. This Court is the ultimate embodiment and global expression of the principles and ideals of the Rule of Law. We are proud of Philadelphia’s historic role…. 

The ICC is still experiencing criticism; just recently it was noted that all current cases before the court are of African origin. Based on reports about human rights violations in west Papua Guinea, tribal warfare in Yemen and the situation in Syria, that may change. We will see. Meanwhile, yesterday I attended a very well organized event, organized by the Drexel Student Alliance of the UNA, featuring former Jordanian Ambassador Marwan Muasher, currently at the Carnegie Foundation in DC. Ambassador Muasher expressed long term optimism for the Arab Awakening and spoke several times about the need for a transparent system of the Rule of Law.

UNA-GP recently welcomed a new slate of Coop students. See elsewhere. They are already deeply involved with our Shot At Life Campaign and in our section on upcoming events you will find several updates. One coop student is preparing to go to Ghana with one summer intern to work on a sanitation project. They will schlep two boxes of books with them donated by the West Philadelphia high school librarian and recent UNA-GP member Tamara Friend. Our member Miranda Alexander organized the selection and she also collected three more boxes of books for Cameroon. Miranda will set up our first Blue Shelf Project at the school and I hope we will have pictures and a report for our May newsletter. I have also gotten phone calls from teachers at schools, inquiring about our essay contest, organized by board member Ben Hover and our Global Focal Point coordinator Kelly Franquemont. Kelly also has finalized the setup for our fully functional Global Focal Point project at University City High.

April is going to be a busy month. The UN Café is starting again with a film showing, in collaboration with PNA, and we hope that the Young Professionals for International Cooperation (YPIC) team will join in the discussions and built some support among our younger members. Shot at Life will have a big kickoff event on April 23rd, and we expect much fanfare in the weeks following. Meanwhile, this month we are starting discussions with the Philadelphia Global Water Initiative (PGWI) and the Fairmount Water Works Interpretative Center (FWWIC) to organize collaborative events, such as Water Model UN, Global Labor Market Camps for 2013, training around water and food for world food day, etc.

There is more, not always rosy. We need a new Treasurer. Jessica Lee can no longer commit the time to this position, and had to step down. Our board needs to meet soon and I have not kept my eye on the ball with that part of the organization. A lot of correspondence is backlogged and we need to get a board member who specializes in membership retention and recruitment. That’s it for now. Stay in touch and come on board if you want to contribute.
The United Nations estimates that more than 9,000 people have been killed since the Syrian uprising against Assad began approximately one year ago. More recently, in an attempt to create support measures for Syrian rebels, Secretary of State Clinton announced that rebel fighters who play an active role against the regime will be offered salaries, to be funded by an international coalition. The international coalition's decision to provide funding for "communication" equipment displayed a shift in policy towards the Free Syria Army, which was initially to be armed and militarized as suggested by some Arab Gulf states. It is becoming increasingly apparent that the diplomatic route by western nations is providing little success in stopping the massacre. This failure is driving western nations to consider a Libyan-style intervention in Damascus. However, it is more and more evident that Syria isn't simply a case of Assad vs. Syrian rebels, but rather is becoming a pawn on the ongoing power struggle within the global political economy, as it plays out on the floor of the United Nations Security Council.

Russia has been a strong supporter of Al-Assad throughout the revolution due to the significant amount of economic and military cooperation between the two nations post-2005. According to The Moscow Times, Russia's general investments in the country are estimated to be around $19.4 billion and another $4 billion in arms. The bulk of these investments are into Syria's infrastructure and energy where large international corporations such as Russia's TMK, ITERA, and Aeroflot are investing in steel pipes, gas, airline, etc. The largest operation in Syria from a Russian industry is through Stroytransgaz, which is building a natural gas processing plant 200 kilometers east of Homs and is involved in constructing the Arab Gas Pipeline. It isn't a mere coincidence that Russia and China have been submitting vetoes to United Nations sanctions on the Assad's regime when the future of Russian investment deals is at stake. Unless any new transitional government can agree on the same amount of economic cooperation as Assad's regime, it may be very difficult to get Russia's support.

The bureaucratic machinery, next to the blunt use of veto power, makes for perfect ways to exercise leverage in the power struggle in the UNSC, where the captains of Russian industry attempt to protect their stakes. The current attempts by special envoy Kofi Annan to broker a ceasefire and implement a six point plan of de-escalating the violence cannot be understood without attention to the economic interests of the Russians and the Chinese. I would submit that Kofi Annan has been instructed with another set of tasks, behind the closed doors of the Security Council. Those tasks, I believe, relate to the protection of foreign economic investments, not so much the protection of women and children. Kofi Annan will succeed, when Russia and China are convinced that their economic foothold in Damascus is secured, whoever the local victors of that peripheral state are.
The HAAS PEACE AWARD Event
(by Christiaan Morssink)
On March 29, the Project for Nuclear Awareness organized a great fundraising event at the WHYY facility in Philadelphia, presenting the Haas Peace Award 2012 to Nobel Prize winner, Dr. Helen Caldicott, for her tireless advocacy to ban and dismantle nuclear arms. The main part of the event was her interview, including a bit of provocative exchange, by well-known columnist Trudy Rubin. The event was preceded by a good pep talk discussion between Helen and a number of students. Indeed, it was wonderful to see many young faces among the attendees. The UNA-GP was well represented among the 150 or so guests. We had a full table (10) as well as a student table (6). There were many more who are members of UNA-GP and it was good to see so many friends. I, myself, was deeply touched by the presence of Craig Eisendrath and his wife Roberta. Being unable to speak, Craig can still take it all in, and this whole audience of friends and admirers was on an emotional rollercoaster.

Kudos to the organizers, like Pat Harner, Cherie Eichholz and Nalat Phanit; it was a female dominated evening, where reason and peace-seeking became the dominant themes of the discourse. I don’t want to babble on, but please check this link for more insights. https://globalphiladelphia.org/news/michael-gagne-executive-director-envision-peace-museum-reflects-2012-haas-award-ceremony-project-nuclear-awareness/

5th Annual PGWI Conference
(by Andrew Young)
On Tuesday April 3rd, 2012 I had the pleasure to attend the 5th annual Philadelphia Global Water Initiative (PGWI) Conference. The conference was a day packed with information sharing regarding water access, sustainability, and solutions to problem that face PGWI. If you’re not familiar with PGWI they are simply put, “a group of interested organizations and individuals committed to helping to meet the UN Millennium Development Goals for water/sanitation throughout the world” (PGWI.org).

Throughout the day there were 16 speakers who all had interesting and captivating stories to tell, or at least the majority were. There was also a forum style discussion during lunch that everyone took part in. The speakers discussed water problems around the world, how PGWI has dealt with these issues, and how they can improve solutions for the future. One story that really interested me was how PGWI helped India set up a water purification system that filtered water that was contaminated with arsenic. It was your stereotypical cliché success story that you can’t help but feel good about. This story alone is a great reason to support PGWI.

One other main topic of discussion was the idea of “roadblocks,” or dilemmas that stand in the way of PGWI’s goal. It was concluded that the largest thing stopping PGWI from operating successfully is the lack of money. It was also concluded that this was a moot point, as this is the problem that almost all non-profit organizations face.

At the end of the day I learned a lot about both PGWI and their “fight.” I was able to discuss my interests with like-minded people, and I even had a delicious avocado and tomato sandwich while doing this!

If you’re interested in learning more or donating to PGWI’s cause check them out at www.pgwi.org.

The Newsletter of the UN Association of Greater Philadelphia is produced and distributed monthly, near the middle of the month (with some flexibility).

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Carolina Torres

Final reader and poster:
Ed Gracely

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info@una-gp.org

The UNA-GP supports the UN’s efforts to produce a better world through international cooperation, human rights, and peacekeeping. Please join us. To join the local chapter, you must join the UNA-USA and tell them (and us!) that you want to be part of the local group. See http://www.una-gp.org/joinus.html for more information and a button from which you can join.
World Mine Awareness Day?
(by Dimitrios Triantafillou)

This past April 4th marked the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. Supporters worldwide rolled up one of their pant legs as a symbolic gesture of support for the landmine survivors across the world. Did you know about this day, or like me, were you completely oblivious to it? Following the ratification of the Landmine treaty, later expanded to include cluster bombs, UNA-GP set up a vibrant active landmine committee and we raised a lot of awareness, contributions and attention. However, as with most campaigns, sustaining is hard to do and we stopped campaigning in 2008. The UNA-USA concluded its Adopt-a-Minefield Campaign in 2009, and our efforts locally shifted to promotion of the UN treaty to regulate the trade of small arms, working specifically on gun violence and violence prevention.

Fortunately for Philadelphia, not a lot of people here have experienced personally the horrific problems that landmines have caused. Our local fields may have ticks and poison ivy, but they are very unlikely to contain explosive devices that blow up when you step on them. Imagine being unable to walk through that open field behind your neighborhood. Or being terrified lest your children accidentally play there and step on a mine! We are carefree and can be carefree in that regard; just as we can be carefree about water, about food, or about the stocked shelves in the stores. Yet, landmines are still a daily problem in more than 80 countries, and the USA still has not signed the treaty to ban them. Moreover, we see that landmines are still actively used, for example in Libya, and most recently, by Syria, which planted these horror weapons along the borders with Lebanon, against a fleeing civilian population…. These weapons target civilians!!

Landmine fields are serious problems around the world and the work load of clearing them shouldn’t be taken lightly. Most of us are oblivious to the horror of landmines. Yet we should not be oblivious to the hard and dangerous work that needs to be done about clearing, educating and assisting victims. The UN works with governments and non-governmental organizations in the forty most affected countries on clearance and awareness about mines and cluster bombs, and to assist victims with disabilities. To learn more about this ongoing drama in humanity here are some links:

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"The UN works with governments and non-governmental organizations in the forty most affected countries on clearance and awareness about mines and cluster bombs, and to assist victims with disabilities."
Get Your Soul Rocked & Your Heart Warmed

Benefit Concert & Luncheon

Enjoy the South African / Mt. Airy band of

Sharon Katz & The Peace Train

and 50 Special Guest Performers

Sunday, April 29 at 12:00 noon

at World Café Live, 3025 Walnut St.


Tax-deductible contribution of $50 for concert & luncheon payable to our non-profit organization:

Friends of The Peace Train, 7207 Bryan St., Phila, PA 19119

or Online at www.worldcafelive.com
Saving Mothers’ and Children’s Lives through Vaccines

April 23rd
5:30 – 7:30 pm
Martin Luther King Room,
Friends Center, 1501 Cherry St.

Please join us for these presentations and to discuss the importance of vaccination campaigns in developing nations! Light refreshments will be served.

Speakers will include:

Carla Campbell, MD, MS
“A Shot at Life: Preventing Maternal and Child Deaths through Increased Vaccination”

Shannon Marquez, PhD, MEng
“Environmental Health and Diarrheal Disease: Rotavirus Vaccine Implementation in the Expanded Program on Immunization in The Gambia”

Lucille Pilling, EdD, MPH, BSN, RN
“Partnerships: How They Evolve and Are Managed”

Sachin Walawalkar, BHMS,
“The Success of Polio Eradication in India through Recent Vaccination Campaigns”

Ethan McBeth,
“Introducing The Eliminate Project”

Sponsors:

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
United States of America
Greater Philadelphia Chapter

Global Nursing Club of Philadelphia
Nursing Students for Global Health
The Global Health Initiative of Drexel University School of Public Health (DUSPH)
The Maternal and Child Working Group of DUSPH
Global Health Forum of the DUSPH
DSA – UNA
Rwanda 2012: Perspectives of Hope?

Featuring Dr. James Plumb MD, MPH.

Dr. Plumb is the director of the Center for Urban Health and a Professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at Jefferson Medical College. Dr. Plumb has been working in East Africa for 20 years and in Rwanda for the last 6 years. In this presentation, he will reflect on his experiences after his most recent trip.

Date: May 8, 2012
Time: 12-2pm
Location: MLK Room American Friends Service Committee
(1501 Cherry St.)

This is a brown bag lunch though refreshments will be provided.

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<tr>
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<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Start of UNCTAD XII</td>
<td>April 21</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Doha, Qatar</td>
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<td>Fruit Tree Planting in honor of Wangari Maathai</td>
<td>April 22</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>7:30am</td>
<td>146 Pelham Rd, Philadelphia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Film/Discussion: In My Lifetime on Nuclear Awareness</td>
<td>April 22</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>5:00pm</td>
<td>Ethical Society, Rittenhouse Sq.</td>
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<td>SHOT@Life and Eliminate:”Saving Children through Vaccination</td>
<td>April 23</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>5:30pm</td>
<td>MLK room at the Friends Center</td>
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<td>Coalition for Peace Action, Princeton NJ. Rev Moore will be awarded at the Peacemaker Awards Ceremony</td>
<td>April 26</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
<td>Mays Landing, NJ.</td>
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<td>SolidariTEA: Shine a Light on Malaria</td>
<td>April 29</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Contact Reem Sharhan at <a href="mailto:reem@aicongress.org">reem@aicongress.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>International Labor Day</td>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td>International Red Crescent/Cross Day: “Rwanda 2012; Perspectives of Hope?” Speaker Professor James Plumb, MD, of the Jefferson University</td>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>12:00pm</td>
<td>MLK Room at the Friend’s Center</td>
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Upcoming events: incomplete, tentative, never finished. If readers want events added to the list, please contact info@una-gp.org.