Dear members, volunteers, and friends of the UNA-GP:

October brings the reality of autumn, falling leaves, and looming deadlines. We also have a harvest bonanza of international events in Philadelphia. For the United Nations Association we particularly look forward to the World Food Day program on Sunday, October 14th (see page 9 in the newsletter). Although this date is not precisely the UN designated day, it is a meaningful day for Philadelphia as it would be the 368th birthday of William Penn, founder of our city and state, and visionary of tolerance and constitutional government. United Nations Day, October 24th, also reminds us of the urgency of maintaining this vital but always threatened international structure for the peaceful resolution of conflicts and the creation of a more just and healthful global community. Finally, October 31st brings Halloween which is one of the most successful links to the UN with the campaign to collect for UNICEF, perhaps the most (only?) truly popular grassroots impression of the UN that we have in the US. While we focus on World Food Day and the continuing process of the Global Initiative for the Rule of Law, we are surrounded by the pressure and loud noise of our election campaign, in which these long term issues are not discussed even though the results of the election will undoubtedly make a crucial impact on how we approach our collective future.

I want to celebrate here one example of the power of international negotiations: this month will see the beginning of a peace process between the government of Colombia and the guerrilla group, the FARC (Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia), two participants in one of the world's most violent and longstanding conflicts. International mediation by Norway and Cuba has contributed to make this possible and the first negotiating meeting is scheduled in Oslo on October 17th, with future meetings planned for Havana, Cuba. As we celebrate the power of global collaboration in our UNA-GP activities, I hope we can keep these negotiators in mind and send them our hopes for a just peace in one of the countries most in need of that.

Sincerely,

Mary Day Kent

President, UNA-GP
September 21, 2012, World Peace Day, became a day of celebration and reflection for the citizens and leaders of Philadelphia who contributed to the festivities, which promoted teamwork, peace, meditation, and prayer and featured guest speakers from the Philadelphia community. Supporters included the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia, the Office of International Programs, Drexel University, Mayor Michael Nutter, Poet Sonia Sanchez, and Senator Larry Farnese of the 1st District. “Sustainable Peace for a Sustainable Future” was the theme for this year’s Peace Day Philly, and it included events such as an assembly at Edison-Fareira High School, a bus trip for students to the UN in New York, and a Peace Dove Walk around Love Park. Other events were not limited to Center City, as participants were given a wide array of options that ranged from promoting non-violence at Philadelphia police departments to documentary screenings.

Around the world, Peace Day is notably observed through a gathered moment of silence at noon, when countries look forward to better peacekeeping efforts and the hope that governments will begin making diplomacy a priority despite the day-to-day obstacles and limitations; the initiative must be undertaken both by nations and individuals in a collective effort.

The United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia looks forward to continuing its support for ceasefire and non-violence on World Peace Day and believes that it is a day that exemplifies the meaning of our fine city’s name, “The City of Brotherly Love.”
Attempting to make a peace sign!

(Taking Manisha’s Peace Day bread)

Breaking bread together!

Christiaan in his

element

Students demonstrating
their desire for peace

Painted barriers along
the walk route

Peace Walk marchers!

Attempting to make a peace sign!
Drexel University took note of Peace Day Philly with this activity, which was part of the “Cross Country Conversation” lecture series. On September 28, several of the school’s divisions (the Office of International Programs, the College of Arts and Sciences, the International Area Studies program, and the Drexel Student Alliance of the United Nations) teamed up to co-sponsor the high-energy, intellectually stimulating panel discussion in place of a typical monthly UN Café. The topic focused not only on the ideological principles behind the United Nations’ existence, but on taking a look at UN interventions in both the past and in recent times in a down-to-earth manner. Questions were raised, such as: Are these interventions even lawful? What should the goal of interventions be? What role should the UN play in global peacekeeping and what does it actually do?

The small reception in MacAlister Hall—which was open to people outside of the Drexel community as well—attracted a diverse range of students and one or two teachers, all of whom had a chance to nosh on delicious snacks provided by Drexel’s catering department. Three pre-selected students presented well-thought-out opinions and questions rooted in their own cultural backgrounds and particular areas of study before welcoming students to make inquiries and offer comments; a faculty supervisor was present to manage the time and steer students towards relevant contributions. The result was some memorable dialogue and a range of thought-provoking questions, some of which were not directly about the United Nations interventions but relevant topics like the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Criminal Court, and the influence of the United States Constitution on the documents originally composed by the UN. At times, discussion got a bit heated, but in general everyone was in good spirits and seemed to enjoy the stimulation, including the moderator. This event was certainly a success and we hope more panel discussions will pop up on campus in the near future!
Priya Chhetri from Kathmandu, Nepal is a junior at Drexel University. She is currently majoring in Business Administration with concentrations in International Business and Marketing. Coming from a diplomatic family, Priya has traveled to numerous countries, including North Korea and Sudan, and during her travels she has learned various languages as well, such as French, Hindi, and Korean. Being born in Nepal, she believes in gender equality and the importance of a good education to all children. During her time at UNA-GP, Priya will be working mostly with event planning and organizing.

Victoria Pethen from Budd Lake, New Jersey, is a sophomore at Drexel University. She is currently majoring in Business Administration with concentrations in International Business and Legal Studies. Victoria is hoping to attend law school after she graduates from Drexel and to travel the world with her experiences in law and international business. As she was born in England, she believes in the equality of all races, cultures, and religions and she hopes she can bring that philosophy to the UNA-GP. During her time here, Victoria will be working mostly with the social media side of the organization through sites such as Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn. She is really looking forward to her co-op.

Nikki Joy de Asis from Rockville, Maryland is a junior at Drexel and a member of Phi Mu Fraternity. She is an International Area Studies major with a concentration in Human Rights and Criminal Justice. Her minor is in Communications with a concentration in Corporate and Public Relations. Nikki plans on attending law school after graduation to practice immigration law, as she believes in seeking equality for all genders and races, but more specifically her passion lies within seeking equality for women and children. During her time at UNA-GP, she hopes to focus on the event planning, public relations/marketing, and fundraising aspects of the organization. Nikki is thrilled to see what the next few months will entail for her at the UNA-GP!

Isabella Fidanza, a Philadelphia native, is a sophomore at Drexel University and a member of the Pennoni Honors College. She is majoring in English while currently deciding on a minor; her aspirations are to attend graduate school (hopefully in England) and create a career lifestyle consisting of teaching, writing, and some form of advocacy. The daughter of an Italian and an American, she is a believer in the power of writing to convey thoughts, messages, and emotions across cultural and linguistic barriers and will primarily be contributing to the UNA-GP through written communications, especially regarding the newsletter. Her previous experiences with nonprofits include volunteering at the American Red Cross Red Ball, the Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion, and the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts.
MEET & GREET
Our New Co-ops Introduce Themselves

Mike Vespa is from North New Jersey and attends Drexel, where he studies Business Administration and Marketing. He is a 20-year-old who loves to learn new things and is fascinated by foreign languages. He considers himself a global thinker and loves discussing politics, philosophy, and culture with other people. As such, he considers his co-op at the United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia a great opportunity and will help organize the UN Café as well as reach out to companies and foundations for fundraising/sponsorships.

Originally from Guyana, South America, Muhammad Sattaur has lived the majority of his life in the United States and is currently an undergraduate at Drexel University. While in high school, he briefly left the US to spend time studying with leading religious scholars; he is now on the board of directors for the Imam Ghazali Institute in and the National Communications Director for the Muslim Students’ Association in North America. He has lectured all across the US, focusing his message around motivating youth to be individuals who bring about positive change. In 2011, he was elected the Executive Director for the Mahabbah Foundation. Additionally, Muhammad was listed as one of the youngest individuals on the “Muslim Heroes” website and was named amongst the most influential Muslims in America in the “Influential Muslims” publication in 2012. He frequently contributes as a writer for Yahoo’s Contributor news network and can be found on his personal blog: http://msattaurn.com/

Meghan Maguire from Broomall, Pennsylvania is a Drexel junior. She is an International Area Studies major with a minor in Photography and a certificate in Creative Writing and Publishing. With a special interest in women’s rights, she is a Campus Ambassador for the Half the Sky Movement, turning oppression into opportunity for women and girls worldwide. She aspires to use her education in photography and international studies to bring a voice to the voiceless through the art of photojournalism. During her time at the UNA-GP, she will be working with the social media and event-planning side of the organization. She hopes to learn all she can from the experience and is excited to get started!

Welcome!
Greetings!

This newsletter is the first product of the new co-op team, which started working on September 24th with a lot of energy and willingness to work on the many programs that the UNA-GP is undertaking. Elsewhere you can read about these students. Some of them actually started early and participated in Peace Day events; Lisa Parker, Heidi West, and many others of the Peace Day Philly 2012 team pulled off some really good activities. Mayor Nutter participated at the Love Park celebration, and throughout the newsletter you will find some pictures of the various goings-on. We also sponsored a UN bus trip on September 21 for high school students at NW Park School for Peace and Social Justice. In addition, we participated at the Peace Assembly at Edison-Fareira High School, an occasion for which Manisha Patel even baked a peace day sweet bread (see pictures)! On Saturday the 22nd, Ana Ciobanescu and I walked the Peace March with the Temple Rotaract, Rotary Madrugadores, and Edison students.

Much is happening this month. We have our World Food Day event on October 14, where we will launch our 2012-2013 Youth Building Roots program. Our Model UN has been launched already and we are in the middle of our PR work for it, seeking participation from high school students throughout the region. To our delight, the Global Philadelphia Association is becoming an ever-expanding, pro-active network, and besides all this we at the UNA-GP work with the Project for Nuclear Awareness on educational and advocacy work; we have a good collaboration with Ed Aguilar and his Peace Vote PA activities; and we work with several water-related organizations (which are inter-connected through the Global Water Association and the Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center) regarding education about water and planning the next Philadelphia Global Water Initiative (PGWI) conference on April 9, 2013. Lastly, we work a lot with the volunteers of the ICC Conference Series. This series is testing the capacity of our organization in terms of manpower, commitment, and fundraising capacity. Working on this project, I want to finish with a shout out to Jessica Hilburn-Holmes, Elizabeth Turchi, and especially Hinke Wiersum for their tenacity, a strong belief in “finishing what you start,” and their team spirit.

I hope to see YOU involved in one or more UN Day events on October 24. Stay involved, vote early, and keep the United Nations in mind when you consider your options! Thank you for your interest, we couldn’t do it without you.

Onward,

Christiaan Morssink

Executive Director, UNA-GP
1. Four sites join UN-backed list of globally recognized geological sites. Four geological sites of exceptional scientific and educational importance, rarity or beauty have been added to the Global Network of National Geoparks, a United Nations-backed list launched to promote greater cooperation in the management of the world’s geological heritage.  

2. UN launches new emergency operation to assist 1.2 million people in DR Congo. The United Nations food relief agency today announced it has launched a new emergency operation for the next nine months which aims to assist some 1.2 million people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) who have been affected by ongoing violence.  

3. Venezuela Election: Chávez Holds Mass Rally on Final Day of Campaigning. Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez held a massive campaign rally in Caracas on Thursday, the final day of campaigning before Sunday's election.  
http://www.commondreams.org/headline/2012/10/05-5

4. Pussy Riot Legal Battle Continues. Court appeal delayed one week; Group's lawyers cite continued mistreatment of band members  
An anticipated court appeal for members of Pussy Riot was delayed Monday after one member announced she had dismissed her attorneys. Attorneys for the band were appealing the two year prison sentence handed down on August 17.  
http://www.commondreams.org/headline/2012/10/01-9

5. Despite Global Slowdown, African Economies Growing Strongly— New Oil, Gas, and Mineral Wealth an Opportunity for Inclusive Development. Sub-Saharan Africa is expected to grow at 4.8 percent in 2012, broadly unchanged from the 4.9 percent growth rate in 2011 and largely on track despite setbacks in the global economy, according to the World Bank’s new Africa’s Pulse, a twice-yearly analysis of the issues shaping Africa’s economic prospects.  

6. World Bank to Help Immunize 34.8 million Children in Pakistan against Polio. The World Bank’s Board of Directors today approved a US$24 million second additional financing for the Third Partnership for Polio Eradication Project (TPPEP) to support the Government of Pakistan’s efforts to immunize 34.8 million children against the crippling effects of polio with the goal of eradicating the disease from the country.  

7. UN welcomes statement by Afghanistan confirming ‘running away’ is not a crime. On October 4th the United Nations welcomed a public statement by Afghan officials clarifying that it is not a criminal offence for women and girls to ‘run away,’ stressing that official declarations like this can go a long way in protecting those who are forced to flee their homes to escape violence.  

8. Following reported shelling, Ban encourages Turkey to keep open communication channels with Syria. United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expresses his deepest concern at the incident which has reportedly killed at least six Turkish civilians and gravely wounded others in the town of Akcakale near the Syrian border, according to his spokesperson.  

9. Informal justice systems must be integrated into development programmes – UN study. Informal justice systems to resolve disputes must be integrated into broader development initiatives to guarantee the protection of human rights, since they are preferred by a large number of people in various developing countries, according to a United Nations study released today.  
This UN event on October 14 marks the start of a series of food-related events and festivals culminating on October 24, which has been declared Food Day in the United States. To make a distinction, World Food Day proper is on October 16 and recognizes the creation of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) in 1945, while Food Day (October 24) in the US is sponsored by the non-profit group The Center for Science in the Public Interest.
United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia

1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102

October 2012

AMERICA FERRERA  DIANE LANE  EVA MENDES  MEG RYAN  GABRIELLE UNION  OLIVIA WILDE

half the sky

Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide

What if you could change the lives of women and girls worldwide?

October 23, 2012

6-8pm

Screening

PAPADAKIS INTEGRATED SCIENCES BUILDING
(PISB)-112
3141 Chesnut Street,
Philadelphia, PA 19104

-donations welcome!
-followed by a discussion with light food & beverages!

Organized by: UNA-GP&Drexel University

www.halftheskymovement.org
This fundraiser for **PA Peace Voter Project** is on **Sunday, October 28** from 7-9 pm at the Philadelphia Ethical Humanist Society. Dr. Helen Caldicott, the former President of Physicians for Social Responsibility and a Nobel Peace Laureate, will be at the event autographing her brand new book **Loving This Planet**. The signing will be followed by a tribute to Helen and a light fare reception organized by her friends in various Philadelphia peace groups, including the Coalition for Peace Action, United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia, Philadelphia Peace Action, Envision Peace Museum, and PSR/Philadelphia.

For more information, including how to donate to the cause and how to arrange a car pool, visit:


“Dr. Helen Caldicott is a widely recognized anti-nuclear advocate who founded several associations dedicated to opposing nuclear weapons and power, and war and military action in general. Caldicott is an Australian physician who left her medical career in order to call attention to what she refers to as the “insanity” of the nuclear arms race and growing reliance on nuclear power. She has been awarded 21 honorary doctoral degrees and received numerous awards, including the Humanist of the Year award from the American Humanist Association in 1982 and Women’s History Month Honoree by the National Women's History Project in 2009. The Smithsonian Institution named Caldicott one of the most influential women of the 20th century....”

*For more biographical information, please visit the webpage listed above.*
FROM OUR FRIENDS AT CHESTNUT HILL COLLEGE...

A Better World Through the United Nations

A Community Event and Silent Auction at Chestnut Hill College to benefit Global Education Motivators

Date: Monday, October 29, 2012
Time: 6PM to 9PM
Location: East Parlor, St. Joseph’s Hall, Chestnut Hill College
Special Speakers:
Juan Carlos Brandt, Chief of Advocacy & Special Events,
United Nations Department of Public Information
Wayne Jacoby, Director
Global Education Motivators

Join Us for a fantastic evening to:
• Celebrate Global Education
• Enjoy a Wine and Cheese reception
• Learn More about the UN
• Participate in a Discussion on Global Education
• Support the work of GEM via a Silent Auction Items
  Donors include restaurants, grocery stores, and more

Cost: $12 in advance, $15 at the door
To Register: Go to gem-ngo.org or email gem@chc.edu

Contact:
Global Education Motivators (GEM)
Chestnut Hill College
9601 Germantown Avenue
Philadelphia, PA
215-248-1150 • gem@chc.edu

Global Education Motivators is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Donations made to GEM are tax deductible.
### October 2012

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**Building Global Professionalism**


**World Food Day**

- **October 14:** Everyone loves food! Come out and support a good cause. Eat, drink, celebrate cultural/culinary diversity, and learn about topics such as urban farming. **See Page 9**

**Half the Sky**

- **October 23:** Actresses such as Meg Ryan and Diane Lane came together to create this emotional, powerful film on the behalf of women in need across the globe. Join the Drexel community for a viewing! **See Page 10**

**UN Day + Café!**

- **October 24:** Join us in celebration of this wonderful day (whose 2012 theme is “Solutions for a Prosperous World”) by attending our special UN Café regarding the UN and global food consumption. Possible location: Green Line Café. **Details to follow via website/e-mail!**

**Half the Sky**

- **October 28:** This fundraiser for the PA Peace Voter Project features the former President of Physicians for Social Responsibility and a Nobel Peace Laureate. **See Page 11**

**A Better World Through the United Nations**

- **October 29:** Interested in the UN and/or global education? Head out to this discussion at Chestnut Hill College! **See Page 12**
November 8: ICC Event

On November 8th we will present “Procedural & Jurisdictional Challenges,” the second seminar in our series of seminars and events for the 2012-2013 academic year. These events are meant to be eligible for professional education credits and will be open to students and professionals in the fields of Law, Political Science, International Relations, and Peace and Social Justice.

This seminar will take place at the Shusterman Hall of Temple University Beasley School of Law. Registration is free, but there is a charge for CLE Credits. Two CLE Credits are available for each panel discussion:

- Morning or Afternoon session $75 (Two CLE Credits)
- Whole day $150 (Four CLE Credits, lunch included)

FEBRUARY 2013: SPECIAL MODEL UN

The Jerome Shestack Model U.N. Conference on the Rule of Law is launched as an educational project to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the ICC. A project of the UNA-GP, this free Model UN on the Rule of Law seeks to engage students in high schools in the greater Philadelphia region. Students can participate individually or in teams, either utilizing after school programs or structured classroom work. The Model UN has a special webpage with information for students and teachers and electronic communication will be an essential component. The UNA-GP relies on volunteers to provide the main support pool for this one-day conference, which will take place in February.

- [http://www.unrol.org/](http://www.unrol.org/)
- [http://worldjusticeproject.org/](http://worldjusticeproject.org/)

**Coordinator:** Linnea Michaels

linnea.michaels@gmail.com

STAY TUNED!

Special Guest:

Judge Sanji Mmasenono Monageng,
First Vice President of the International Criminal Court (ICC)

RSVP

For more information and/or to register, visit:

DECEMBER 10: GPA MEETING & HUMAN RIGHTS

1. On December 10, the Global Philadelphia Association will follow up its October 4 Board Meeting with its annual Membership Meeting. This serves as a great reminder to consider joining the GPA as an individual or getting your group/team/company to join so you can attend future meetings!

2. December 10 is also Human Rights Day, marking the day in 1948 when the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights! Check the UN website closer to the time for information.

JANUARY 18: UNCITRAL EVENT

On Friday, January 18, 2013, the Villanova Law Review will hold a symposium on "Assessing the CISG and Other International Endeavors to Unify International Contract Law: Has the Time Come for a New Global Initiative to Harmonize and Unify International Trade?" This topic is both timely and important as the United Nations is considering a proposal to study whether it should undertake the drafting of a new convention on international sales law. The symposium will feature the leading authorities on the subject of international sales law from across the globe, including the Secretary of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), The Honorable Renaud Sorieul.

This event is co-sponsored by the Global Philadelphia Association, the Philadelphia Bar Association, the Pennsylvania Bar Association, and many others. It will take place at Villanova University School of Law.

Stay tuned for more information closer to the time and mark your calendars!

REMEMBER...

Enjoy your month! See you in the November newsletter.
The UNA-GP is a chapter of the United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA). Our website offers information about our mission, upcoming events, and ways to get involved, including joining and volunteering. In addition, we are on social media sites and send out our monthly newsletter. Take a look around!

Volunteers with all types of skill sets are welcome to work with the UNA-GP. Contact:

Manisha Patel  
Volunteer Coordinator  
Board Member  
mpatel@una-gp.org