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

It is December 10, 2012. Tonight, our Board of Directors, enhanced by additional members and hardworking Drexel co-op students, met and acknowledged this wonderful global day, the 64th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. So much of our time as peace advocates seems to be dedicated to opposition (for example, anti-war activities) that it is a day to be treasured when we can be part of a global community of celebration. If you don’t happen to have your own personal copy of the Universal Declaration, I hope you will go online, find it, print it out, and even read it aloud to yourself and any family and friends who might be around. The official UN site for the declaration is here. It is a liberating and exhilarating document born out of the ashes and despair of the Second World War, and it is a living proof that the United Nations has a great deal to offer us in the U.S.

This past month has again been intensely filled with special events and ongoing projects for the UNA-GP. Christiaan Morssink and his current crew participated in the Presidential Election as poll-workers—good practice in the event that there is an opportunity to serve as an election monitor on behalf of the UN or an NGO. If you can decode what is happening in Philadelphia, then you have the skills an international observer mission needs! Additionally, following the national election we had the second event of the series on the International Criminal Court (ICC), held at Temple Law School on November 8th. (See the November newsletter for a full report.) On December 4th, the UNA-GP sponsored Ambassador Thomas Graham, who spoke about the issues of peace and disarmament in the second Obama administration (see Page 5 for more details)

It never ceases to amaze me how much our tightly budgeted and thinly (volunteer) staffed organization is able to accomplish. Just this month we had the satisfaction of seeing one of our board members, Enid Adler, recognized on the front page of the Philadelphia Inquirer for her work of many years to raise support and US commitment to the International Criminal Court. A lengthy two-page article published on December 3rd brought Enid, her achievements, and the whole issue of the ICC directly to the paper’s readership. If you haven’t read it yet, an electronic copy is available on the Inquirer’s website*: http://articles.philly.com/2012-12-04/news/35572626_1_human-rights-lawyer-thomas-lubanga-prosecution-of-war-crimes *Beneath the text there are some ads and then links for the next pages. Scroll down.

We will continue to work on the ICC project in 2013, aiming to connect at the highest legal levels with the third seminar of the “Philadelphia Global Initiative on the Rule of Law,” which is planned for February 11. A conference for local high school students on March 2 will also be focused on the rule of law. However, we could always do more and more is always needed! I hope we will all find ways to be more involved in the coming year, whether through volunteering, organizing events, raising funds, publicizing, lobbying, or perhaps by finding just one additional UNA-GP member to strengthen our numbers.

Sincerely,

Mary Day Kent, President
In solidarity with Malala and her sisters worldwide, the United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia dedicated the commemoration of Human Rights Day 2012 to Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states: “Everyone has the right to education...Elementary education shall be compulsory.”

This action came on the heels of the United Nations decision to deem November 10th Malala Day in honor of Pakistani teenage rights activist Malala Yousafzai, who was shot in the head by the Taliban last month for campaigning for girls' education. Malala's dream is a Pakistan where she, her friends, and future generations of girls could attend school, walk freely into a classroom, and reach their full potentials.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's Special Envoy for Global Education, the former British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, declared, “This Saturday November 10th will see Malala Day, a global event to show the world that people of all creeds; all sexes, all backgrounds and all countries stand behind Malala. This is Malala Day. It’s time for the world to walk in the footsteps of this girl of courage. Malala Yousafzai has become a global icon of hope, an international symbol of courage, a schoolgirl who has won the hearts of millions through her bravery.”

The UN Chief said citizens from across the globe are speaking out for Yousafzai and on behalf of the 61 million children who do not go to school.

"I am adding my voice to the messages from over one million people across the globe. Education is a fundamental human right. It is a pathway to development, tolerance and global citizenship," Ki-moon said in a brief video message posted on the UN website. He called the international community to join the UN campaign to put education first “for Malala and girls and boys throughout the world.” Events have been planned in over 100 countries, from the UK and USA to Mexico, India, Australia, and Sierra Leone to mark the day. In the UK, where there is a host of local events, the most poignant occasion took place in Lozells, Birmingham only a few miles away from Malala's hospital.

Baroness Sayeeda Warsi, Britain's Senior Minister of State at the Foreign Office and Minister for faith and communities, hailed Malala Yousafzai's inspirational activism ahead of Malala Day today in her statement: “Through her inspirational activism Malala has bravely highlighted the need for education to be accessible to all children in Pakistan.”Education is the single most important factor that can transform Pakistan's future.”

Thousands of people from across the world have signed a petition calling for her to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Malala is recovering in a British hospital from her gunshot wounds and has received messages of support for her cause from global leaders like US President Barack Obama.
While board minutes are official only after the board reviews and approves them, we like to keep our members up to date on our activities. Towards that end, this unofficial summary of the December board meeting is provided.

The last board meeting of UNA GP for 2012 took place on Monday, December 10, Human Rights Day, presided over by Mary Day Kent. During the meeting there was a candlelight display in lieu of our usual more thematic events organized on that day. The candles represented the thirty articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), with some emphasis on article 26, the right to education.

Minutes of the September meeting were approved. The monthly budget report by Treasurer Nick Sanders was discussed and approved.

Ed Gracely proposed a change in the bylaws regarding the wording of membership categories, bringing the text in line with the terminology used by UNA-USA. The board approved the change, with the caveat that at the next membership meeting the change needs to be ratified.

Executive Director Christiaan Morssink reported on the new team of coop students from Drexel and work study students from UPenn. He reported on the new website design, including a place for blogging, the International Criminal Court (ICC) Seminar at Temple, and the World Food Day event. He commented briefly on the status of our ongoing programs, such as the Jerome Shestack Model U.N. Conference on the Rule of Law, Youth Building Roots, the Blue Shelf Project, and the impending essay contest.

Because this was UDHR day, and because most of us were very disappointed with the failure by the U.S. Senate to ratify the U.N. Treaty on the rights of the Disabled, board members who live in Pennsylvania signed two letters for Senators Casey and Toomey drafted by Mary Day that expressed dismay with the failure of the Senate, with a strong urging for both Senators to vote for ratification at the next possible vote.

The meeting ended with the board approving a proposal forwarded by Marietta Tanner. Marietta wants to organize a high profile event, in collaboration with others, to discuss the constructive and logical interface between the U.S. Constitution and the Charter and workings of the United Nations; the event is scheduled for UN Day 2013 and would fit with the announcement, made earlier that Monday by the Global Philadelphia Association, to highlight an International Focus, GlobalPhilly2013, from September 15 to October 31, 2013.

See some pictures from the board meeting on the next page.
(Clockwise from top left)

#1: Jessica Lee taking pictures of the moment

#2: Christiaan and Carol Jenkins signing a letter

#3: Nick, looking rather satisfied

#4: The lights of hope!
GATHERING
7th Annual Global Temple Conference

On November 14, Temple hosted its 7th Annual Global Temple Conference, a daylong event that focused on the University’s long-ranging international work. Organized by the Faculty Senate International Programs Committee, which was supported by numerous school groups, the conference was held in the Howard Gittis Student Center. Students were more involved than ever!

Each year, the conference has a specific theme that determines the focus of the day; this year’s theme revolved around mixing and re-mixing the global and the local. Temple is aware that their students are already exposed to cultural diversity, whether they are in North Philadelphia or somewhere in Asia, as they have friends from all over who expose them to new music, food, and art. Temple is proud of this, but they want to use this yearly function to expand it even further.

The Honorable Peter S. Watson, President and CEO of the Dwight Group (an investment bank based in Washington, D.C.) kicked off the event with a lecture called “The Next President’s Greatest Global Challenge: Preventing Conflict in Asia/the Pacific as Consensus for U.S. Regional Leadership Erodes,” after which students began making their presentations. Students presented posters and videos on how they can promote different cultures in Philadelphia and beyond. For example, Nicole Gigliotti, a Public Relations major with a Spanish minor, studied abroad in Rome during her spring semester of sophomore year; she found many similarities between Rome and Philadelphia and wanted to show them in a way that people would be able to approach these places without much hesitation.

She compared such things as the architecture of the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Pantheon. “Normally, people focus on what is different about a place,” said Ms. Gigliotti, “but when I was there, I found a lot of parallels between Philadelphia and Rome.”

According to students, the conference was better attended than in previous years. Many thought it had to do with this year’s keynote speaker, but whatever the reason, it’s nice to see Temple promoting global unity among young people through its campus activities and we at the United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia can only send out a round of applause!
The Nationalities Service Center (NSC) is known for its non-profit efforts geared towards assisting immigrants and refugees in areas ranging from legal services to education. Each year, they look to reach over 2,400+ individuals through their services by helping them assimilate to American culture, and part of their efforts are to eliminate the language barriers that may become obstacles for them in the future. Likewise, the United States has been known for being the “melting pot” of various cultures, languages, and religions, which has in turn opened opportunities for individuals seeking a career in the public sector while exercising their passion for foreign language through jobs as an interpreter.

The NSC recently offered a 17-hour interpreter training workshop on three separate days: November 30th, December 1st, and December 9th at the Nationalities Service Center office at 1216 Arch Street. This workshop was not only a rare opportunity to practice strategies and techniques that can be utilized in a professional workplace, but it also equipped participants by strengthening their confidence in terms of shaping their skills into a long-term career. The Service Center made this event open to bilinguals with various levels of skills. Overall, this workshop allowed participants to foresee a future in community outreach in an in-demand field.

Updates on the Blue Shelf Project

On Wednesday November 28, 2012, the UNA-GP’s Blue Shelf Project was launched at the Independence Branch Library of Philadelphia. The goal of this project is “to establish a UN global literacy awareness program for the West Philly High Library through an identifiable blue shelf.” One of its purposes is to provide a way to introduce the UN’s Millennium Development Goals (MDG) to students, as well as to “implement the United Nations literacy building blocks model.” Hopefully, student ambassadors will be selected and will, in the future, become UNA-GP members and work in partnership with the organization.

Items on display include UN-related books, flags, and brochures/handouts about UNA-GP local activities and the MDG. After months of negotiation and preparation, the project was set-up in less than three hours by UNA-GP Board Treasurer Nick Sanders and Blue Shelf Coordinator Miranda Alexander! Hooray! Next on the agenda is the continued negotiation of the West Philly High School Library Project and, still to be confirmed, Parkway High School.
(Clockwise from top left)

#1: Nick posing with the star: the shelf!
#2: Miranda hard at work
#3: Fun, visually engaging detailing
#4: All done! Time to relax...
On Tuesday, December 4th, Ambassador Thomas Graham, Jr.—former Director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency—discussed the past, present, and future of nuclear arms control and related topics at the Friends Center in Philadelphia. The event (entitled “What’s Next for Diplomacy and Disarmament in the Second Obama Term?”) was sponsored by the Coalition for Peace Action, Drexel University International Programs, the Pennsylvania Peace Voter Project, and the United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia.

Ambassador Graham began his presentation with a proliferation anecdote that most people are still unaware of: in the 1960s, at the height of the Cold War, the biggest fear of the Kennedy Administration was the probability of having at least 20 nuclear-armed countries by the 1980s. As the Ambassador explained, this world view made perfect sense for a president who had lived through the Cuban Missile Crisis, yet as we know now, this future never materialized. What did materialize were multiple non-proliferation regimes that compelled the superpowers and other nuclear-armed states to restrict the size of their arsenals and curtail the spread of nuclear weapon technology. Ultimately, as Ambassador Graham asserted, nations learned to negotiate and turn nuclear reduction into a “work-in-progress” as opposed to a “winner-takes-all” equation.

While commenting on recent developments, Graham targeted nuclear issues in the Middle East. He stated that while he did not expect Iran to pursue a nuclear weapon, he believes that the United States would have to negotiate and learn to accept the possibility of a “nuclear-capable Iran” despite the rejection of a “nuclear-armed Iran”. Continuing on the topic of the Middle East, he went on the say that the United States needs to ratify the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) in 2013, thereby encouraging other non-ratifiers to make the same decision. Graham clearly outlined a sequence in which the U.S. would ratify the CTBT, an action leading to Israeli and Chinese ratification, with the former's ratification most likely prompting Egyptian and Iranian ratification as well.
Hello members, volunteers, and friends:

It’s that time again! We at the UNA-GP wish you well, especially in terms of health and conflict handling; adding to that, we hope that in the coming year everyone’s level of wealth stays at or reaches a comfortable level and that we can begin to close the wide gap between the extremely wealthy and extremely poor in this country—that is, eventually, that it will cease to exist altogether.

Despite these sincere holiday wishes, however, we must realize that our primitive tendencies towards an ethnocentric attitude, violent expressions of dominance over other groups, and disregard for female dignity are still rampant and not well contained (actually, in some places, not contained at all.)

I fear for the further deterioration of the political climate and communication in most large nations; I am worried about the clear disconnect between the political realm and the scientific realm.

While our “leaders” keep glossing over global warming, environmental injustice, soaring health disparities, and population pressures, a fearful disregard for science and sheer lack of knowledge is manifest among many of our representatives. To top it off, we witness a free-from-all corporate raiding of the world’s resources, unbelievable amounts of capital transfers at breakneck speed, and absolutely blatant political corruption in the majority of nations—not to mention tax-evasions by the global elite at levels never seen in the history of human kind. All of these things eventually corrode the mechanisms through which we can and must develop stewardship of the earth and atmosphere.

Now that I have that off my chest, let me focus on what we can do in our small corner of the world to make it all a bit better. What can we do locally that still expresses hope, still expresses that feeling that our “City of Peaceful Love” (as I call can make a difference and be a place with a high quality of life for all? Personally, I wish (and will work) to embrace the science and recommendations that the United Nations has put forth. Hence, I will work on conserving energy, water, and food. I will plant trees and attempt to cut down my carbon footprint, water footprint, and animal protein footprint. I will educate and advocate on these topics in schools and other places. I will raise my voice for policies that help, not hinder . . . Most of all, I will reach out to the disabled overseas through support of landmine victims, of Operation Smile, and of fistula hospitals . . .

Again, I encourage you all to act locally in 2013, towards a better understanding and better participation of the U.S. in the affairs of our global citizenry. And to close, I hope to see you, UNA-GP members and friends, at some of our special events and UN Cafés this year, as well as out in your communities doing something you think will contribute or express that hope. You never know what can change a life or spark an idea right in your own backyard! Please think about donating, volunteering, and joining for the cause. Keep up hope for 2013 and peace to you all!

Onward,

Christiaan Morssink
When Malala Yousafazi was shot in the head by the Taliban in October, after fighting for something many of us take for granted every day, the world had to stop and think about what it means to have the right to education. Therefore, the UNA-GP decided to host its December UN Café in respect of both Human Rights Day and the recent Malala Yousafazi tragedy. Held in Drexel’s Ross Commons, the Café focused on Article 26 of the Universal Declaration for Human Rights (UDHR).

Moderator Christiaan Morssink started off the night with a clip from Sheryl WuDunn’s “Ted Talk” on Half the Sky. Half the Sky is a book that she and her husband, New York Times journalist Nicholas Kristoff, wrote on the many dynamics of the oppression of women in countries around the world. This book has since been made into a documentary and a movement that is promoting and making change for women and girls both in our own country and in other nations.

Christiaan also played an inspiring clip about Bunker Roy, the founder of Barefoot College in India, and the students got an alternative look at schooling and the idea of “professionalism” in an urban community. Both videos made students question their own ideas about education and what it would mean for our future if those without the opportunity could have access to school and training in their communities.

It was a beautiful experience to see vibrant young people come together to discuss such a pressing issue. The atmosphere was comfortable, with people talking over tea and snacks, and allowed for an honest exchange of opinions as well as friendly conversation. At the night’s end, Christiaan asked us all to go back to our daily routines and think, “What can we do now?” This is the real reason people come together at a UN Café: to learn, to educate, and to leave as activists—hopefully making friends along the way.
(Clockwise from top left)

#1: Introductory film clips about the origins of *Half the Sky*

#2: Christiaan starts revving up discussion!

#3: Students listen attentively to question prompts

#4: Everyone begins to open up as they get more comfortable
Statement by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay on Human Rights Day: 10 December 2012

Millions of people have gone on to the streets over the past few years, in countries all across the world, emboldened by what is happening elsewhere, some demanding civil and political rights, others demanding economic, social and cultural rights.

This groundswell is not simply a question of people demanding freedom of expression and freedom to say what they think and make clear what they want.

They are asking for much more than that. They are asking for an end to a situation where governments simply decide what is best for their populations without even consulting them. They are asking for their right to participate fully in the important decisions and policies affecting their daily lives, at the international, national and the local levels. Many people in many countries have been making it clear they are fed up with their leaders treating them with disdain and ignoring their needs, ambitions, fears and desires.

They have been, in effect, asking for what has been, for more than sixty years, under international law, rightfully theirs. They have been asking for the human rights laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – which is commemorated every year on 10 December – and subsequently fleshed out in other binding international treaties.

Every citizen shall have the right and the opportunity to take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives. Every person shall have the right to vote and be elected, and to have access to public service, as well as to free expression, assembly and association. These are among the rights enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which 167 States are party. And they have been restated in many similar ways in other laws and documents.

These rights are supposed to apply to everyone. No one should be excluded from any of them because they are female, belong to a minority, or worship a certain religion; or because they are gay, have a disability, have particular political beliefs, are migrants or belong to a certain racial or ethnic group. We all should have a voice that counts in our societies. We should all have free, active and meaningful participation in both economic and political affairs.

Unfortunately, many people don’t.

Instead they are ignored. Or, worse, they are actively persecuted, and the people who are trying to help them gain their rights – the human rights defenders – are intimidated, threatened, and persecuted as well. Sometimes, it is less deliberate, more insidious: certain individuals or groups are simply not given the opportunity: the opportunity to raise their voice, or use their brains and talents to achieve the successes of which they are capable, to climb out of poverty or achieve high office – or even any office.

Many millions of people cannot even dream of aiming high, they just dream of getting by – of surviving until tomorrow.

That may be because they have not been to school, or because they have no health care, no adequate shelter, insufficient food, and none of the basic rights and services that would give them the opportunity to build a better future.

Or it may be because they are specifically excluded from seizing opportunities by discriminatory laws or practices. Or because, through no fault of their own, they are stateless, citizens of nowhere, and therefore not only do not have a voice, but do not officially exist.

Or it may simply be because their leaders are so focused on their own grip on power and wealth that they simply don’t care what happens to those whose lives they govern. They’ll give just enough to keep people quiet and stop them protesting. If they are obstinate and raise their voice, they will lock them up, torture them or find other ways to distract them, silence them or make them disappear.

But in the past two years, people in many countries have raised the stakes, and made it clear that “just enough” is no longer good enough. In many countries, they have confronted their governments head on, not just in the Middle East and North Africa, but in other parts of the world as well, on issues covering the full range of fundamental civil, political, social, cultural and economic rights.

In a number of countries in recent months, we have continued to see the most extreme examples of rights being trampled underfoot. Many thousands of men, women and children tortured to death, raped, bombed, shelled, shot, forced from their homes, deprived of food, water, electricity and health care by their own governments or by armed groups, apparently intent on nothing more than their own hold on power. These are governments and non-state actors who are continuing to behave in a way that is the complete antithesis of everything we celebrate on Human Rights Day.

Today, I salute all those who have suffered so much seeking what is rightfully theirs, and all those people in other countries who in their own way – whether it is in Santiago or Cairo, Athens or Moscow, New York or New Delhi – are also saying we have a voice, we have our rights and we want to participate in the way our societies and economies are run.

Because that is how it should be.
1. Senate to vote on Russia trade and rights bill
2012 has been a huge year for Russian trade, after joining the WTO and meeting with APEC it was clear that Putin is serious about making changes. The United States Senate is set to endorse legislation that both normalizes trade with Russia and highlights the discord between the two countries over human rights issues. http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=43549&Cr=HIV&Cr1=AIDS#.UMihBIPLeok

2. New UN report finds rate of new HIV infections has fallen by half in 25 countries
A reduction of more than 50 per cent in the rate of new HIV infections has been achieved across 25 low- and middle-income countries – more than half in Africa, the region most affected by HIV – according to a new United Nations report, which shows that unprecedented acceleration in the AIDS response is producing results. http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=43549&Cr=HIV&Cr1=AIDS#.UMihBIPLeok

3. The new Mexican president believes that he has broad political agreement to change his country.
In July of 2012 Enrique Peña and the PRI party won the Mexican vote. This election served to be very controversial among poor workers, indiguous groups and students. Peña hopes that he can team up with previous political parties to make changes in the country that are vital for development. In his first address to the Mexican people last week he explained that he will work to refine the interior ministry so that it is more efficient in dealing with domestic crime problems. http://www.economist.com/news/americas/21567941-new-president-believes-he-has-broad-political-agreement-change-his-country?src=nlw|wwp|12-6-201214320317178190544|NA

4. UN report urges greater implementation of law protecting women’s rights in Afghanistan
“Prevailing insecurity and weak rule of law have further hampered women’s access to formal justice institutions,” Ms. Gagnon said. On Monday, the acting Director of the Women’s Affairs Department in Lagman, Nadia Sidiqi, was shot and killed by two unidentified gunmen while on her way to work on a motorised rickshaw. http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=43742&Cr=afghan&Cr1=#.UMieloPLeok

5. At key technology conference, Secretary-General warns of ‘digital divide’ in Internet age
A digital divide has no place in the information age and 21st-century knowledge economy,” he said. “Our overall objective must be to ensure universal access to information and communication technology – including for the two-thirds of the world’s population currently not online.” http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=43666&Cr=internet&Cr1=#.UMij64PLeok

6. Egypt opposition backs referendum ‘No’ vote
President Mohammed Morsi, who was elected just about five months ago, has proposed a referendum to the Egyptian constitution which will be voted on December 15th. The opposition National Salvation Front is asking all its supporters to vote against the reform because they find it to be over islamist. http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-20696571

7. UNESCO chief voices ‘deep concern’ over continued killing of journalists in Syria
Irina Bokova addressed her deep concern for the murders of journalist working in Syria at her news release last week. Her comments follow the violent deaths of eight journalists since late November: newspaper editor Najj Assaad; TV reporter Bassel Tawfiq Youssef; professional journalist Abdel Khalil; a and citizen journalists Hozan Abdel Halim Mahmoud, Mohammed Al Zaher, also known as Abu Nasser Na’imi. Hundreds of journalist and bloggers are killed every year trying to report the news, it is becoming a global concern that needs to taken seriously. http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=43704&Cr=syria&Cr1=#.UMihZ4PLeok

8. Can Ethiopia and Eritrea finally find peace?
The ethiopian Prime Minister, Hailemariam Desalegn, sat down to clear up common misinterpretations with Al Jazeera. Ethiopian relationships between bordering countries, government takeover of indigenous land and the on going fight with Eritrea were assessed in the interview. The “undercover” Ethiopian dam may become a controversial issue as it controls access to the Red Sea, critical for global trade connecting Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia. http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/talktojazeera/2012/12/20121271035462767867.html

9. Iran Debates Talking with the U.S.
The Iranian leadership prepares to engage in negotiations with the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council plus Germany (P5+1) over the fate of its nuclear program. Iranians from all over the political sctrum fear working with the United States, they have held several bi-later talks and debates on the issue. http://www.ipsnews.net/2012/12/iran-debates-talking-with-the-u-s/

10. North Korea launches long-range rocket
North Korea has launched 1.3B a long-range rocket into space this week. The UN Security Council fears this advance and will hold an emergency meeting next Wednesday on the matter. The country has explained that the rocket has been placed in space to further advances in technology however, the global perception is less optimistic. Bordering countries Japan and Seoul both oppose and criticize the launch. http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia-pacific/2012/12/2012121216197363487.html
HAVE A PEACEFUL SEASON OF GIVING!

Hannukah

Happy Holidays

Happy Winter Solstice
2013 GUIDE

Tentative Happenings for Next Year!

- February 4: Membership Day w/ Bus Trip
- February 11: Seminar at UPenn
- March 2: Model UN Conference
- March 22: World Water Day
- April 22: Earth Day
- May 8: International Red Cross & Red Crescent Day
- June: Membership Meeting
- July 17: International Day of Justice
- September 21: International Day of Peace
- October 16: World Food Day
LOOK AHEAD

More Announcements & Upcoming Events

UPDATE! MARCH 2:
SPECIAL MODEL UN CONFERENCE

The Jerome Shestack Model U.N. Conference on the Rule of Law was launched as an educational project to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the International Criminal Court (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 in preparation individually or in teams and utilizing after-school programs or structured classroom work. UNA-GP relies on volunteers to provide the main support pool for this one-day conference, which will tentatively take place at Wharton Business School of the University of Pennsylvania.

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

**If you are interested in getting more information for your school about this opportunity, contact Linnea Michaels:**

--> linnea.michaels@gmail.com

UPDATE! 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.

**Registration now available!** For a list of speakers and more, visit: [http://www.law.villanova.edu/lawreview/?page_id=33](http://www.law.villanova.edu/lawreview/?page_id=33)

SAVE THE DATE!

On February 4 there will be a Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference/ Members Day at the UN headquarters in New York entitled "The U.S. at the UN: Opportunities for Renewal."

Keep your eyes peeled for information!
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