Dear members and friends of the United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia:

The mid-winter months are always exceptionally long, or at least they feel that way! However, the calendar for UNA-GP is always full of communication and accomplishment. Recently, some members were able to participate in Washington events around the Inauguration, an affirmation of democracy and the Constitution. Many others were able to attend the annual membership day at the United Nations in New York on February 4th: a stimulating program, an exciting opportunity to be directly in touch with the UN, and a great chance to meet other UNA members and the national staff. (Look for the day next year if you weren't able to go in 2013!) Finally, The February 11th events focusing on the International Criminal Court are another significant example of the impact the UNA-GP can have on the Philadelphia legal community and the general public.

I am writing this from Colombia and am very sorry that I will be missing these events. Nevertheless, the coming month of March is always busy since March 8th is International Women's Day (IWD). As such, March includes the UN Commission's annual meeting on the status of women, and in Philadelphia our organization is a yearly organizer and sponsor of IWD activities and, in general, of events raising awareness of the global situations and potential of women. Additionally, in writing from Colombia I get to experience a perspective on the UN different from the US view. Here, the role of the UN and the international community is constant and powerful as the country seeks to end a nearly 50-year-old internal conflict by negotiated settlement. Various agencies of the UN contribute to the settlement and the country is proud to have its UN Ambassador currently serving as the president of the ECOSOC (the UN Economic and Social Committee). It is a joy to see the recognition of the value of international agencies such as the UNDP in land reform, the UNHCR in refugee assistance, the HRC in defense of human rights, the WHO in health reform, and the ILO in protection of labor rights—all representing serious and unresolved challenges, but presenting a clear picture of the importance of global collaboration.

Just think: in March and April we can mobilize the UNA-GP for advocacy in our own country, urging the necessity of maintaining a strong support for the United Nations in our US federal budget. The UNA-GP will be reaching out to members to participate in letter-writing campaigns and office visits, among other things, so keep your eyes peeled. In the meantime, please let me or Christiaan Morssink know if you are interested in helping us organize our actions!

Sincerely,

Mary Day Kent, President
It’s time to follow up on a long-anticipated “save-the-date” memo. January 18 was an exciting day for Villanova University as it hosted a symposium entitled “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?” that brought together a number of the world’s experts on international contract law. The topic for discussion was chosen as a response the UN’s consideration of drafting a new convention on international sales law; it was therefore not only a matter relevant to the law community, but a number of other communities as well. Co-sponsored by several renowned organizations, including UNCITRAL (the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law) itself, the symposium lasted from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm and was divided into four panels discussing various topics: Special Topics Under the CISG [Contracts for the International Sale of Goods], International Perspectives, Related International Instruments and Organizations, and Looking Towards the Future. The speakers were an immensely talented bunch of men and women from various backgrounds. For example, the Welcome Address was given by the Dean of the law school, John Y. Gotanda, while the Introduction and Overview speaker was Michael Bridge of the London School of Economics. Further, UNCITRAL’s Secretary, The Honorable Renaud Sorieul, was a panelist.

Attendees had the opportunity to not only expand their knowledge, but also to earn CLE credits and to ask the panel members questions electronically. Overall, it was an engaging experience and a positive step towards establishing more international think-tanks in academic settings.
The UNA-GP hosts these monthly UN Cafés based on the famously European notion of an intellectual café (although, of course, the idea existed in many cultures throughout the world for generations): a gathering in a social setting, with some refreshment, serving as a platform for spring-boarding ideas and opinions about various issues. The subjects our organization chooses to focus on vary from local to global in scale of focus, and this month we hosted the event based around a relevant topic that not only falls under both categories, but serves as an example of how directly such discussion can impact a community: climate change.

On January 27, the UNA-GP gathered again at Ross Commons on Drexel University’s campus. Young men and women took a break from studying for impending midterms and came to learn about the matter, which many students felt had been ignored for too long. To begin the discussion, the Café Manager for this round of co-ops, Mike, showed a video of President Obama during his inauguration speech mentioning how global climate patterns were one of his top concerns; he wanted, he claimed, to start taking action right away so that our children and our grandchildren will live in a world like ours, if not better. After viewing the clip, the students watched another showing how some countries are in the process of changing their lifestyles to be more eco-friendly and how other nations have not permanently begun this process. One striking example of the latter was how before the 2008, Chinese Olympics officials stopped factory production and cars were not to be used months prior to ensure that the smog-free air made a good impression on television. After all this, debate ensued. The speaker and co-moderator, Hassan Ammar, brought a fresh, valid point of view as a recent graduate of the University of Pennsylvania with a B.A. in Economics and Master’s in Environmental Studies. Hassan volunteered with the UNA-GP a few years ago and hopes to stick around for a few more months and chip in some other bright ideas, so a big thank-you to him.

We hope to continue improving the café formats in the coming months and making them more accessible to not only students, but locals and Board Members as well! Can’t wait to see you at one soon!
IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON FUTURE CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS EFFECTS ON US. WITH APPROPRIATE ACTIONS BY GOVERNMENTS, COMMUNITIES, INDIVIDUALS, AND BUSINESSES, WE CAN REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF GREENHOUSE GAS POLLUTION WE RELEASE AND LOWER THE RISK OF MUCH GREATER WARMING AND SEVERE CONSEQUENCES. MANY OF THE ACTIONS THAT WE CAN TAKE TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE WILL HAVE OTHER BENEFITS, SUCH AS CLEANER, HEALTHIER AIR. IN ADDITION, COMMUNITIES CAN TAKE ACTION TO PREPARE FOR THE CHANGES WE KNOW ARE COMING. (EPA.GOV)

Café speaker and co-moderator
Hassan Ammar

A little history! A Viennese coffee house in the mid-1800s... →
On February 1, the UNA-GP got a chance to participate in an empowering and fun event designed to raise awareness of and interest in GirlUp, a UN Foundation campaign focusing on improving the education, career options, and happiness of the world’s young female citizens in struggling countries. The event manifested in the form of a “Sadie Hawkins” dance—the kind where the girl invites the boy, if she wishes to bring a date—at Tredyffrin Public Library in Strafford, PA. As the library provides a spacious and welcoming environment, it made for a good location and ultimately helped ensure the success of the party; all funds collected were donated to GirlUp.

Manisha Patel, a United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia Board Member and the organization’s Volunteer Coordinator, served as the mandatory adult chaperon for the night. Other co-ops, interns, and work-studies joined her and generously volunteered to spend their Friday nights keeping tabs on the high school students. In true team spirit, one—Meghan Maguire—drove several of the her fellow co-workers from the city and Manisha picked up another co-op from the train station and escorted her to the library personally. The lively gathering lasted from 8:00 to 11:00.

Our chapter is proud to send representatives to participates in causes such as this. The Sadie Hawkins dance not only highlighted a fledging UNA movement, but also tied in with several themes UNA-GP is embracing this year in light of recent events. For example, our UN Café in December, “Woman’s Fight for Equality and the Right to Education,” was organized around ideas similar to those behind GirlUp and focused on Malala Yousafzai’s story and the causes behind her struggles. Overall, everyone who attended hopes that the students enjoyed themselves and encourages others to learn about the organization, perhaps even getting involved at their own schools or in their children’s schools. Visit http://www.girlup.org/ today and find something to do within your interests!
Hello members, volunteers, and friends:

I like soccer. It is a game that can be played by many, almost everywhere; it doesn’t require special bodily attributes; it is all about team-building and some basic skills. If you are really good at it, you play with others who are really good at it. Each one of us can play with others at the skill level that makes winning and losing a more or less equal possibility. I also like soccer because it is one of those games that makes it possible to celebrate your ethnicity, hometown, neighborhood, or nationality. It is a positive way to channel the social needs for belonging and becomes a group confirmation without having to fall back on weapons, armies, gang fights and what have you. The celebrating as well as mourning troupes of fans at the World Cup every few years exemplify the positive of ethnic belonging, showing that soccer is a level playing field. It abides by rules of fairness and designated oversight, and it is thus a perfect sport for showing how to make and keep peace.

There are nasty exceptions to this picture, however — hooligans who go on a rampage; people hurling racist insults at players who have been contracted to play for their home teams; taboos being demanded to prevent Catholics, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, etc. to play for the team that once was only Catholic, Muslim, and so on. The worst is when players are killed or kill others, as happened recently in the Netherlands. Those incidents are reported far and wide and badly tarnish the game—but they don’t ruin its appeal. So, I like soccer, and I applaud the UK-based social movement One Day One Goal for using the appeal of soccer to celebrate and promote the International Day of Peace. For a few years now, games have been organized around that concept right here in Philadelphia. Peace Day Philly has a website (peacedayphilly.org) where one can find a lot of details about the events organized last year, and is itself shaping up as a great example of how a city can stimulate good vibes, energy, and reflection about the universal yearning for peace as a bedrock for a good communal life.

This year, we should build on what we learned in 2012 and expand our capacity. The UNA-GP participates on the level of conceptualization in addition to some planning and publicity, but as a small organization without a full-time staff, we cannot execute a full-fledged soccer tournament. Knowing our limitations, but wishing very much to see soccer being used as a message for goodwill and unity, we have begun to talk with other organizations to see if there is interest. There is, and a first—although not well attended—meeting was held on January 28. Good ideas were proposed: one was to stay congruent with the period of September 15-October 31, which the Global Philadelphia Association has designated as GlobalPhilly 2013 (see globalphiladelphia.org for details). We could start on September 21 with a lot of energy and end on the Saturday or Sunday of United Nations Week (October 26 or 27). We could also make two tournaments, one for schools and one for interested teams that currently play in the different leagues in Philadelphia, perhaps even pairing the two groups in a “big brother, big sister” fashion. There have been mentions about getting buy-in from league directors, the professional team UNION, or possible sponsors like Comcast and PECO. Well-executed PR around this project will be key. We can use fields throughout the city during the six weeks of the tournament, using centrally located fields for both the initial kick-off and final wrap-up matches.

However, we cannot go forward if we do not have a task-force of dedicated volunteers who can put energy, connections, staff, and public relations efforts to work in an integrated way. This is beyond the capacity of the UNA-GP itself, and I call on our friends and supporters to attend the next meeting, which is scheduled for Monday, February 18 at 12 pm in the American Friends Service Center at 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia. During that meeting, we need to take stock, lay out a plan of action, and, if we can get sufficient buy-in, take the plunge!

I look forward to seeing you there. Come if anything I’ve mentioned interests you, or if you are perhaps interested in volunteering, sponsoring, or donating in some capacity to UNA-GP!

Onward,

Christiaan Morssink, Executive Director
The morning of February 4th dawned cold and sleepy for the board members, students, volunteers, and—of course—Executive Director Morssink as they all scrambled to catch early morning buses to New York City. Nevertheless, it was a privilege, especially for the students, to participate in the United Nations Association of America’s annual Membership Day conference at UN Headquarters.

After the team congregated and went through security, they headed to Conference Room 3, which was packed with not only UN staff and reporters, but photographers, a cameraman, and security, not to mention attendees from all walks of life and age ranges. Many had notepads or laptops to record notes, including UNA-GP Newsletter Manager Isabella. The team trekkers were all lucky enough to get seats directly in front of the podium; afterwards, they were excited to find that they had ended up in pictures sprinkled throughout the UNA website. (They also managed to snag memorable souvenirs from the gift shop!)

The morning started off with a welcome and introductions by Jeanne Bestock Stillan, the President of the UNA-USA Southern New York Division. Stillan then announced Jan Eliasson, UN Deputy Secretary-General, who gave an inspiring and powerful keynote address. The co-ops were impressed by how professional and frank, yet caring and down-to-earth, he managed to come across while delivering both depressing statistics and a rallying call for action. Eliasson ended his speech on a hopeful note and was met with a hearty round of applause, then passed the microphone to Patrick Madden, UNA-USA’s Executive Director. Madden talked about the growth of the UNA-USA, among other things, emphasizing that more student groups are becoming involved in its causes and that about 85% of Americans surveyed in a recent poll agree the US should have a substantial role in the UN. The Executive Director clearly believes that all this is a step in the right direction and let his enthusiasm open the hour-long first panel, Rio+20: Moving Forward.

Afterward, a brief lunch break took place and Brooke Loughrin, the U.S. Youth Observer at the UN, made some remarks. The second panel, Global Economy, Education, and Youth, was very lively and things had to be wrapped up quickly to allow the President & CEO of the UN Fountain (Kathy Cavin) to relay a few a words. Cavin lit up the room with her positivity before announcing another break; the final panel, entitled Finding Solutions to Stubborn Conflicts, ended at about 4:45. The day flew by!

Following the pictures on the next page is an excellent guest article by fellow attendee Nalat Phanit regarding the Rio+20 panel. Nalat, a blogger and graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, holds a Master’s of Environmental Studies degree with a concentration in Advocacy and Outreach. She has a lot to say, so please check out her blog as well at http://nalatphanit.wordpress.com/
(Clockwise from top left)

#1: Patrick Madden and Jan Eliasson
#2: The packed conference room!
#3: Co-ops Isabella, Victoria, and Priya and volunteer Prachi (second from left) enjoying their unique experience
#4: The first panel; major topics included climate regulation and student involvement in UN activities
On February 4, 2013, the United Nations Association of the United States of America held its annual Member’s Day conference at UN Headquarters in New York City. Of the various panel discussions, one discussion focused on sustainable development, specifically the future of the implementation of outcomes from the Rio+20 conference held in 2012 and the future of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The results from Rio+20 are lengthy, ambitious, and seemingly non-relevant to an individual. So why should anyone care? Because the seed for change needs to start somewhere. Nikhil Seth, Director of the Division for Sustainable Development, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, believes that “sustainability is the engagement of every part of society,” which includes individual citizens. Through scientific analysis, innovations, and the engagement of all society’s contingents, ripples of change and progress will occur.

The Rio+20 conference focused on specific areas of sustainability such as poverty eradication. According to DoSomething.org, “a child dies from hunger-related causes every 8 to 12 seconds.” No matter how much food and aid is given to poverty-stricken areas, the success of poverty eradication is contingent upon how well governments and societies react to climate change. Dr. Eban Goodstein, Director of the Bard Center for Environmental Policy, believes that in a youth’s lifetime, the average global temperature may increase between 4 to 12 degrees Fahrenheit. Drought will be the defining change of the future, affecting food production, water availability and quality, and fertile land availability. One cannot address poverty eradication without addressing climate change.

There’s a trend of “climate silence” over the years. The 2006 documentary, An Inconvenient Truth, renewed the environmental movement and climate change became a hot topic. The momentum for change slowed down as other immediate issues clouded the public’s interest, such as the economic crisis. In 2012, the destruction from hurricane Sandy briefly revived talks on climate change. Now, “climate silence” is settling in again. Breaking climate silence is essential to sustainable development and the future of the Millennium Development Goals.

Perhaps it will seem more relevant to an individual if these daunting goals are scaled down to something that is pertinent to most people, their pockets. The Millennium Development Goals, which were set in 2000, will be approaching their deadline in two years. The goal to halve the proportion of the population without sustainable access to basic sanitation will not be met. Progress to end global hunger has been hindered by global food and financial crises. Increase in global temperatures will only make matters worse. Without proper sanitation, epidemics are likely to occur, affecting public health, which affects global economies. Food production will be challenged, affecting food accessibility, which also affects public health and global economies. Shifts in global economies can be felt on a personal level, as each of us are feeling now in this economic crisis.

According to Minh-Thu Pham, United Nations Foundation, the most important milestone to aim for is the achievement of current MDGs by 2015. Achieving these goals will increase the credibility of the MDGs and the United Nations. The off-track goals should not discourage citizens and organizations from continuing their work. Instead, these should serve as motivators for citizens to talk and act on the issues, breaking “climate silence.”

Off-track MDGs will most likely be included in the United Nations Foundation’s post 2015 UN development agenda. The United Nations is reaching out to citizens for their interests in global issues. Individuals can visit www.worldwewant2015.org and/or www.myworld2015.org to tell the UN what issues should be included in the UN Development Agenda.

“At the end of the day,” said Eban Goodstein, “we will not be able to solve climate issues voluntarily.” Legal changes are needed and a strong national grassroots base can promote these changes. You can become part of the grassroots movement to inspire legal change. You can break the climate silence.
LEARNING
Upcoming Model UN in Honor of J. Shestack

After months of planning and alerting you in the our newsletter, it’s finally approaching! The Jerome Shestack Model U.N. Conference on the Rule of Law, named after the late Philadelphia lawyer and human rights advocate, will be held on March 2 at the University of Pennsylvania’s Steinberg-Dietrich Hall.

The UNA-GP team is getting deeply involved in preparing the participating high school students. We have been able to get five high schools involved; our target was six. Two schools, Parkway Northwest High School for Peace and Social Justice and Boys’ Latin of Philadelphia Charter School, use class time to prepare for the event. Science Leadership Academy, University City High School Promise Academy, and Tacony Academy Charter School work via after school groups. Last week we started at SLA, and Tacony was the last to formally jump on board and start prep work. Nevertheless, with enough schools now involved, each school will choose an NGO that is involved with global justice. For now, CARE and Amnesty International have been selected by Boys’ Latin and Tacony, respectively. SLA and Parkway NW are potential candidates to represent Partners in Health and Human Rights Watch; at University City High, where our Isabella Fidanza and Mike Vespa work with environmental science teacher Alan Siegel, the choice will be between Earth Charter, Greepeace, or another group that promotes environmental justice.

Our team prepared lesson plans, all originated by UPenn student Patricia Martin, and uses them in a very pragmatic way. We use regularly make use of the Internet, and the discussions focus most often on how global justice work dovetails with local and even street-level justice; we try to teach that while empathy for the stranger and a cosmopolitan civic engagement is not something that comes naturally in our socialization patterns, it can be seen as the ultimate growth into well-informed adulthood.

Everyone is learning through organizing, working with small budgets, and realizing that it’s not possible to charge a fee for our services. While the student workers may encountering bureaucratic, insurance, or agenda hurdles, Dr. Morssink sees all this as a “growth curve” The team is especially grateful for the support of Prachi Potdar, Hinke Wiersum, and Jessica Hilburn-Holmes, as well as Manisha Patel. They provide that professional and adult oversight that, while quite laissez-faire, is much needed in an experiment like this. To close with the words of our Executive Director, “I hope that the Model UN will be an educational success and that it lays the groundwork for a good repeat next year.”
The Jerome Shestack Model United Nations Conference on the Rule of Law
March 2, 2013
Steinberg Hall-Dietrich Hall
3620 Locust Walk
University of Pennsylvania

1. Registration and Opening Ceremonies (8:30 AM to 9:00 AM)
   - Call to order and organizational announcements: Daniel Bu, Convener

2. First Plenary Session: 9:00 AM to 11:00AM
   - Keynote Address. Speaker: Christiana Morsink, Executive Director of the UNA-GP
   - Official Roll Call of schools—Convener: Daniel Bu
   - Rule Recap for the Conference: Convener
   - Discussion on Demand for Youth Voice in World Justice Project
     Moderated by: Jessica Hilburn-Holmes, Esq.

   **Moderating Questions:**

   * Should the youth of the world be involved with current proceedings of the World Justice Project?

   * Why would participation by young persons be fruitful?

   * How could the World Justice Project include young persons in its proceedings?

   * Adoption of resolution to be presented to the World Justice Project regional office in DC.
     (Draft resolutions should have been send to the Convener Daniel Bu by February 24th)

3. 4 Breakout Sessions (11:00 AM-12:00 PM): Discussing the scoring of the Rule of Law Index of the four countries. Each school team has prepared their scoring ahead of the conference. Each break out session will identify a rapporteur.

4. Lunch (12:00 PM-1:00 PM)

5. Second Plenary Session (1:00 PM-2:00 PM): Reports from the breakout sessions. Moderator: Jessica Hilburn-Holmes, Esq. Vote to accept the findings regarding scoring and make them a supplement to the resolution.

6. 2:00 PM-3:00 PM: Discussion on the merits of the Rule of Law Index, using social, environmental and health justice perspectives. Identifying five suggestions for improvement or for inclusion of new criteria to be added to the Rule of Law Index.

   * What is wrong with the focus of the Rule of Law Index?

   * What measures can be taken to fix this?

   * What is specifically missing from the Rule of Law Index

   * What needs to be added?

7. 3:00 PM-3:15 PM: Adoption of a list of suggestions for improvement and appointment of a delegation to deliver the findings to the World Justice Project in DC (2 reps from each school)

8. 3:15 PM-4:00 PM: Closing ceremony and reception.
Wow! Realizing the impact of our local UNA chapter can be a pleasant surprise sometimes, as well as a reminder that the work we do really is important and meaningful, even to those people who move on from the organization.

This month we received the following warm wishes from Kiran Qureshi, a former UNA-GP volunteer and Board Member who is currently making a difference at the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) eHealth Resource Centre. AKDN is a group of non-denominational development agencies whose ultimate goal is to improve living conditions and career opportunities in sub-Saharan Africa, Central and South Asia, and the Middle East; some of their many focuses include health, education, culture, and the environment.

Kiran provides strategic advice to AKDN agencies on eHealth programs and initiatives in East Africa and South and Central Asia. She also develops partnerships with NGOs, government, healthcare organizations, and ICT companies to increase the scope of the Centre's operations.

February 3, 2013

Dear Christiaan,

It’s been a while since we connected. I trust things have been well and busy at your end.

I’ve thought of connecting with you several times ever since I left Philadelphia two years ago and moved to Pakistan. I’m writing now because I came across your UDHR [Universal Declaration of Human Rights Day] e-mail that you had included me on a few months ago in which you inquired about the possibility of my assistance in some form with the event. Unfortunately, the mail made its way to my junk folder and I only recently read it. I would have loved to help in some way (had I seen it in time).

In fact, the reason I have thought of connecting with you over time is to say that if I can help in any way with your events, perhaps with communications, please do let me know. I still receive the UNA-GP newsletter and am therefore aware of news and events. Please do think of me if you ever need help and think that I can assist. To be on the safe side, drop me a LinkedIn message in case the e-mail makes it way to the junk box again!

How are you? Although my time with UNA-GP was short-lived, I was very impressed by the good work the organization and, especially the volunteers, were doing.

All the best from Karachi, Pakistan.

-Kiran Qureshi
UNESCO recognizes Brazilian friar's contribution to social justice in Latin America and Caribbean
Irina Bokova, Director General of UNESCO, has selected Brazilian Dominican friar Frei Betto as laureate of the 2013 UNESCO International José Martí Prize. The Prize is given annually to reward a person who has worked hard throughout the year to unify and empower countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

UN humanitarian fund provides $100 million to help save lives in 'neglected' crises
On January 21st the UN’s Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) announced its plan to provide $100 million in funds for “neglected” crises around the world; The countries selected included : Afghanistan, Algeria, Burundi, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Haiti, Liberia, Sudan, Uganda and Yemen. Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Valerie Amos explained that she hopes these funds will serve as a catalyst to aid from other countries.

BRICS Invest in National Priorities
IPS corespondent John Fraser interviews recognized economist and chief strategist of the Johannesburg-based asset manager, Investment Solutions, Chris Hart, on strategic investment plans for the emerging economies of developing or newly industrialised countries Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa aka BRICS. Throughout the interview Hart explains that the five countries are meeting more frequently to facilitate communication so that the focus can be asserted to national priorities. Hart also briefly explains the certain weaknesses between the countries.
http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/01/brics-invest-in-national-priorities/

This Global Violence Against Women Will No Longer Be Tolerated
Eve Ensler is a playwright and activist who works with One Billion Rising, the global campaign that is a call for the one billion women who have been beaten or raped and the men who love them. In her article Ensler describes the global violence against women the same way that global warming was once described, as a taboo. Her leadership in the campaign has inspired women she has worked with to teach, protect and speak out against violence everywhere.
http://www.commondreams.org/view/2013/01/13-

France, Mali, Algeria: Get stuck in but don’t get stuck
On February 14, French President François Hollande sent his troops into the former colonized land of Mali in hopes of helping Malians to free their country of the jihadists. Although Hollande has sent less than 3,000 troops so far the countries are officially in a war against terrorism, which brings global discomfort. Luckily the US and Britain are backing them with logistical and intelligence support as well as the UN Security council keeping close watch.

World economy to strengthen modestly in 2013: IMF
The International Monetary Fund put out an optimistic report last week projecting the growth of global economic growth stating it will be roughly 3.5%. There was a strong emphasis put on the current weakness of the euro and how its regression may weigh on external demand and terms of trade of commodity exporters. The euro weakness may influence stable economies like the US which is to grow by two percent and China which is to grow by 8.2%.

Security Council sharpens sanctions on DPR Korea in wake of ballistic missile launch
On January 22 the United Nations Security Council reiterated its condemnation of a December 2012 missile launch by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), and sharply targeted sanctions on that country while again demanding an end to its nuclear and ballistic tests.

EU leaders warn Cameron over membership referendum
UK Prime Minister David Cameron has stated that he “will give the British people a referendum with a very simple in or out choice”. This has caused Germany and France to protest that he cannot pick and choose EU membership terms after he pledged a referendum. Change in referendum could cause dramatic changes in the relationships between the UK and the EU.
http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-21159368#

Clinton Cites New Security Steps After Libya Attack
In one of her final appearances as secretary of state, Hillary Rodham Clinton on Wednesday January 23rd vigorously defended her handling of last September’s attack on the United States diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya, which killed four Americans and prompted a scathing review of State Department procedures.
This fundraiser, originally scheduled to take place at Philadelphia Ethical Humanist Society in October, was cancelled due to Hurricane Sandy. Dr. Helen Caldicott, the former President of Physicians for Social Responsibility and a Nobel Peace Laureate, is now back in town and promoting her brand-new book "Loving This Planet."

On March 15, you can catch her at the American Friends Service Center at 1501 Cherry Street in Philadelphia; the book-signing will be followed by a tribute to Helen and a light fare reception organized by her friends in various Philadelphia peace groups. The event is FREE and open to the public; however, reservations are requested. For the full scoop and to register, visit: http://www.peacecoalition.org/news-and-events/390-dr-helen-caldicott-presentation-in-philadelphia.html

Dr. Helen Caldicott: 
LOVING THIS PLANET
Award-winning peace advocate,
Friday, March 15, Friends Center
Talk, Book Signing, Meet-and-Greet
7:00-9:00 PM, 1501 Cherry St, Philadelphia, PA

"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..."
## February 2013

### New Announcements & Upcoming Events

#### February 23: Road to Damascus

Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture, a group formed to teach the Arabic language, arts, and culture, is pleased to bring together visual artist Kevork Mourad and composer Kinan Abou-afach in a collaborative project of original compositions reflecting on their memories of Damascus and its rich history. For more information and to buy tickets, visit: [http://globalphiladelphia.org/events/al-bustan-seeds-culture-presents-roads-damascus](http://globalphiladelphia.org/events/al-bustan-seeds-culture-presents-roads-damascus)

#### February 24: UN Café

This month’s UNA-GP Café topic is “Gun Control: A Comparative Understanding” and will take place in Ross Commons (above Sabrina’s Cafe) on Drexel’s campus. Tentative time: 3:30-5:00 pm. Check the website and Facebook closer to the time!

#### February 28: Corporations as Global Citizens: an Alumni Panel

Haverford Center for Peace and Global Citizenship host a panel discussion to answer such questions as: How do these powerful entities affect positive social change? How are multinational corporations forces for good in the world? What obligations do they have as global citizens to address inequality, especially in countries where they have a market presence? Three Haverford alumni experienced in international business, law and trade will share their knowledge. For more information, go to: [http://globalphiladelphia.org/events/haverford-center-peace-and-global-citizenship-presents-corporation](http://globalphiladelphia.org/events/haverford-center-peace-and-global-citizenship-presents-corporation)

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More on Pages 16 & 17
March Announcements & Upcoming Events

◆ March 1: A Conversation with Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor at the National Constitution Center

Join Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, the first Hispanic and the third woman on the U.S. Supreme Court, for an honest and detailed look into her personal story as a Bronx native who made it to Princeton, Yale Law School, the New York County District Attorney’s office, and the Federal District Court—all before the age of 40! This is an event that is sure to shed some light on her appointment to the nation’s highest court. For more info, go to: http://globalphiladelphia.org/events/conversation-supreme-court-justice-sonia-sotomayor-national-constitution-center

◆ March 1-31: Women’s History Month at the National Constitution Center

It’s that time of year again! Visitors can participate in a variety of exciting, interesting, fun events throughout the month, free with museum admission. Highlights include the show Philadelphia Girl Power and a collection of artifacts from Susan B. Anthony. For the full scoop, check out: http://globalphiladelphia.org/events/womens-history-month-national-constitution-center-2013

◆ March 2: Model UN

Interested in the Rule of Law, the World Justice Project, or the Rule of Law Index? Are you in educator? Are you interested in Model UN? See our specially themed Model UN unfold! **See Page 10 for the latest report; page 11 for logistics info; page 17 for general knowledge**

◆ March 8: A Powerful and Influential Voice for Human Rights: Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland

Mary Robinson, the seventh (and first female) President of Ireland and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, will join the Council on International Women’s Day 2013 to share highlights of her path to prominence, as well as her thoughts about a better future for the world—thoughts that will give insight to writing process of her soon-to-be published memoir, Everybody Matters: My Life Giving Voice. Register and check it out at: http://globalphiladelphia.org/events/powerful-and-influential-voice-human-rights-mary-robinson-former-president-ireland

◆ March 12: International Women’s Day Event

Something the UNA-GP is particularly excited about since so many woken around the globe don’t get a fair voice. **See Page 17**

◆ March 15: 8th Annual United Nations Conference on Teaching Peace and Human Rights

Calling all educators—and educators-in-training! Are you aware of what is happening in human rights education? What are your colleagues around the world teaching and doing about human rights? How can you be involved in human rights education to help make the world a better place? This one-day conference is for teachers/future teachers, administrators, and NGOs for a global dialogue on the importance of human rights education to help achieve a world of peace and respect. Go to: http://globalphiladelphia.org/events/8th-annual-united-nations-conference-teaching-peace-and-human-rights

◆ March 15: A Conversation with Justice Sandra Day O’Connor at the National Constitution Center

Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, a National Constitution Center Trustee and, of course, the first woman to sit on the United States Supreme Court, has penned the compelling book Out of Order: Stories from the History of the Supreme Court. The book pertains to the evolution of the highest court in the land, so join Justice O’Connor in person for an insider’s look at her experiences and some fascinating stories. Get informed at: http://globalphiladelphia.org/events/conversation-justice-sandra-day-o%2780%99connor-national-constitution-center
LOOK AHEAD
MORE New Announcements & 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 new project of the UNA-GP, this free Model UN seeks to engage students in high schools in the greater Philadelphia region; students are preparing individually and in teams and are utilizing either after-school programs or structured classroom work. Young UNA-GP team members are training kids for the one-day conference, as well as moderating it. For some background/info quick reading...

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

**Check out the article in this month’s newsletter regarding our latest progress and news! We’re excited to keep you all informed!**

MARCH 12: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY EVENT

“The Migrating Wives: Negotiating Identities in a New Land”

UPenn invites you to hear a panel of scholars as they discuss the changing patterns of immigrant wives’ experiences. Panelists will explore topics such as arranged marriages, polygamy, and the “mail-order bride” industry. This program will be followed by a reception.

**Co-sponsored by:** Africa Center, Center for East Asia Studies, Middle East Center, South Asia Center, Penn Women’s Center, International House, United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia, Anna Crusis Women’s Choir, and more!

**Date:** Tuesday March 12, 2013

**Time:** 6:00 pm

**Venue:** International House Philadelphia
3701 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104

If you're interested in attending and want to know more, contact Anastasia Shown, Assistant Director of the University of Pennsylvania’s Africa Center, at shown@sas.upenn.edu or call 215-898-6449.

~Note: To find out about International Women’s Day and its impact, visit: [http://www.internationalwomensday.com/](http://www.internationalwomensday.com/)
Volunteers with all types of skill sets are welcome to work with the UNA-GP, in the short or long term. If interested, please contact:

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