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June 20th 2013

At the Carriage House on the University of Pennsylvania's campus
3907 Spruce St, Philadelphia PA

5:30 - 8:00

With Keynote speaker Charlene Mires of Rutgers University
"Capital of the World:
the Race to Host the United Nations: How Philadelphia Fared"

The UNA-GP can not exist without your input and support!

Find Full Flyer Here
President’s Letter

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

As I come to the halfway point of my term as President of UNA-GP, I realize that it has been a revelation to be in this position where I get an overview of all the many different forms of action that our chapter carries out. Even now as we look forward to the “slower” months of summer, UNA-GP shows almost no sign of sitting back! I report elsewhere in this newsletter about my experience in Washington at the UNA national meeting and it was exciting to realize that our chapter is making new waves and engaging in events and activities that make other chapters jealous. Let us keep up the pace! On the other hand, getting in touch with the national perspective on the United Nations also brings home the urgent necessity of our work. In visits to Congressional offices I was reminded that there is a huge reservoir of hostility to any form of international engagement for the US, and particularly hostility and suspicion of the United Nations. This is what we must constantly overcome to move forward to become part of the global community, building security by communication, understanding, and shared efforts to solve the global problems we all face.

Our activities continue in the immediate months ahead, highlighted by our Membership Meeting on June 20th (Flyer), our 3rd annual Global Garden Party on July 21st in honor of World Justice Day, and a panoply of events for Sept. 21st for the World Day of Peace, leading up to World Food Day in October and a series of actions presently being planned for October 24th, United Nations Day. The last three days of this series will be highlighted as part of GlobalPhilly2013, the first international festival of Global Philadelphia. Please link to globalphiladelphia.org for a sense of the wonderful range of events that our UNA will be contributing to.

Let us all enjoy this time of year with maximum light!

Mary Day Kent
President, UNA-GP
From Christiaan’s Desk

While in DC on Saturday June 1, to discuss Model UN programs that are implemented by many chapters in a variety of ways, I was reminded that 2013 is the 70th anniversary of the UNA. Indeed, Eleanor Roosevelt was ahead of the political-bureaucratic process and got into advocacy before there was even an organization to support. So it is serendipity that our membership meeting this year (June 20th) will have a keynote address that goes back to the early days of the UN, and how Philadelphia was one of the cities considered to host its headquarters. Using this anniversary, our chapter wants to hold special events on October 24th, UN DAY. We are planning an evening event in collaboration with the Global Security Institute and the Project for Nuclear Awareness that will emphasize the issues of (nuclear) disarmament and arms control. PNA will present two awards during that evening and the event is scheduled to take place at the National Constitution Center. Before that, the UNA-GP wants to hold an anniversary event for high school students and teachers. That event is scheduled for 3 to 5PM, also tentative scheduled at the NCC, and will commemorate the importance of the United Nations System, the need to become global citizens and how important Philadelphians like Rev. Leon Sullivan have made a global imprint by their work and their moral character. The invitations will go out to the MUN clubs at the different schools. A possible lunch meeting is being considered as well, where UNA-GP would like to emphasize the roles several Philadelphia based organizations play in support of the UNMDGs. Other plans include a Model UN on Water Management, in collaboration with PGWI, FWWIC and Drexel MUN club. At our membership meeting I hope to speak to several other plans in the works, including a Summer Camp for high schools students on Global Labor Market prospects, a symposium on malaria eradication on Hispaniola and globalizing the media clubs at local high schools. All these plans are implemented with the support of students from our local universities and a few members. However, we need more support from members if we want to keep up our work pace and especially on the topic of fundraising and grant writing we seek the expert help that the older ones among us may be able to provide. I hope to see many of you at our membership meeting where we can discuss in greater detail.

Christiaan, Executive Director

"We need more support from members if we want to keep up our work pace."
Chilean Development Still Tied to Copper Mining
During the Pascua Lama conflict in March several gold and copper mines were deemed “glacier melters” along the Andes mountains. After several mines shut down and further research on the issue, Chile hopes that mining will continue to strive as the country’s largest industry.
Read More

Government sees controversial IMF report as negotiating tool
The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has admitted making “notable errors” in the design of the 2010 Greek bailout package and in the 2012 debt restructuring plan. Portuguese government sees this as an opportunity to gain in future negotiations with the IMF-EU-ECB troika.
Read More

Youth Say Coca-Cola Is Easier to Find Than Condoms
Last month at the Women Deliver Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malasia to discuss the issues facing health and women globally. Most participants came from developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America where “contraceptives” are equated with condoms, teen pregnancy is on the rise and child marriage is often considered a social norm.
Read More

As Mexico claws toward prosperity, some in middle class slide back
After the election of Enrique Peña Nieto, Mexico has made strides in fixing its small cities and economy. Small towns like Chalco have seen a rise in educational rights, Mayor Esteban Hernandez reports that “In 1976, there were two primary schools in Chalco and today, they have 380 schools, including six universities.” Although many have seen a positive trend, small middle class families still struggle to escape the black market trade. Economists say access to affordable credit remains one of the biggest impediments to growth.
Read More

Peru’s Humala Rejects Request to Release Fujimori From Jail
Fujimori was jailed and given a 25-year-sentence in 2009 for ordering two massacres of civilians by government-linked death squads committed during his 10-year rule that ended in 2000. Although he has made several attempts to escape his full sentence Fujimori was once again denied release.
Read More

Tunisian FEMEN Activist Faces New Charges
The global female organization known as FEMEN has had several run-ins with the law during demonstrations and riots in the pasted months. The most recent is Ms.Amina Tyler from Tunisia, cited for graffiti and “non-authorized possession of an incendiary object” — pepper spray. Two other FEMEN activist from France and Germany have been tried this month.
Read More
This past U.N Café focused on the threat of nuclear weapons and the continued attempts of nations in the “axis of evil” to develop powerful weapons of mass destruction. Jon Miller, a Fellow with the Project for Nuclear Awareness, discussed the viewpoints of North Korea and Iran, addressing their perspective and going past the fear mongering of the media to understand the real implications of these nations actions. As the threat of nuclear weapons use continues to alarm us, it is always important to not succumb to our emotions, but to approach the situation from a realistic perspective and an understanding of all involved factors.
U.N. Cafe Presents...

**SUNDAY JUNE 30TH**

ROSS COMMONS
2ND FLOOR
34TH AND POWELTON AVE

**Water Conservation**

**US vs. THEM**
On May 16th we were graced with the presence of his Excellency Claudio Bisogniero, the Italian Ambassador to the United States. The special address dealt with discussion of Italian national affairs, regional European issues (including the Continuing Euro Crisis), and global politics (including the Transatlantic Free Trade Union). His Excellency discussed the stress for more awareness and the importance of 20x more trade between US and Europe than in China. He also discussed the short-term and long-term benefits about the Union, how it could help the Italian economy, the American economy, the European economy, and even lead to helping global economy.

Have any ideas for fundraising events? We’re all ears!
With the volume of projects the UNA-GP is constantly immersed in, we are always in need of more volunteers, no matter how much or how (seemingly!) little time you have to devote. Email Manisha Patel, (Volunteer Coordinator and Board Member) with your suggestions or any questions at mpatel@una-gp.org.

The UNA-GP is in desperate need of funds for upcoming projects. In order to continue with extremely beneficial and enriching events, such as the Model UN, we need your help! Please donate whatever you can to the UNA-GP, and in turn, Philadelphians and beyond!
Upcoming Events

June 20th - Member’s Day 5:30 - 8:00
Join us for the annual UNA-GP meeting at the Carriage House on the campus of UPenn. Learn about how Philadelphia was once in the running to host the UN buildings. Get a chance to meet and mingle with your fellow UNA-GP volunteers.

Find Full Flyer Here

July 21st, from 4.30 to 8PM  Fourth Annual Garden Party (in celebration of the International Day of Justice). The perfect opportunity to have fun and help us fundraise at our garden party! 146 Pelham Rd, Philadelphia. Food, drinks, live music and a chance to interact with friends and members of the UNA-GP. Don’t miss it and bring your checkbook.

September 21st - International Day of Peace, multiple events are planned, from soccer tournaments to workshops on peacemaking and marching for peace.

October 16th - Our third annual world food day event. Details to follow, but keep the evening open for some serious eating and talking about eating; This year probably at Rutgers, Camden

October 24th - UN Day. An evening of celebrations and award ceremonies. In collaboration with The Global Securities Institute and the Project for Nuclear Awareness

November 16th. Our first Model UN Conference on Water Management for High schools students, in commemoration of World Toilet Day, on November 19th.
Governments to sign first arms trade treaty regulating conventional weapons

“Agreement will cover sales of tanks, combat aircraft, attack helicopters, warships and light weapons”

By: Shiv Malik
A post from the Guardian on June 2 2013

Governments will sign the world's first internationally binding agreement to regulate the trade in conventional weapons on Monday. Adopted by the UN in April after a vote of 154 to three, the arms trade treaty will seek to control the global trade in arms and ammunition. The treaty, which will regulate the sales of battle tanks, large-calibre artillery systems, combat aircraft, attack helicopters, warships and small arms and light weapons, will be signed by top arms exporters including the UK, Germany and France. The US is expected to sign later this year.

Though it will not control the domestic use of weapons, once ratified, the treaty will require nations to establish national regulations to control the transfer of conventional arms, regulate arms brokers, and assess the risks of weapons being used in human rights violations. Anna Macdonald, head of arms control at Oxfam, said: "The signing of the arms trade treaty gives hope to the millions affected by armed violence every day. Gunrunners and dictators have been sent a clear message that their time of easy access to weapons is up. "For generations the arms trade has been shrouded in secrecy but from now on it will be open to scrutiny." "This treaty now makes governments take responsibility for every arms transfer that enters or leaves their territory, and requires they put human rights and humanitarian law, not profit, at the heart of every decision. Too many lives have been lost to armed violence – today's ceremony marks a new dawn."

Baffour Amoa, president of the West African Action Network on Small Arms, said: "Today, the first day of the treaty becoming a reality, takes us one step closer to tackling attacks against civilians and sexual violence in Africa, including eastern Congo, where millions have seen their lives torn apart by conflict."

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Dear UNA-USA Member,

Your fellow members from 58 Chapters and 30 states gathered in Washington, DC this week to discuss the importance of a strong U.S.-UN relationship during the 2013 UNA-USA Annual Meeting. On the final day of the conference, members from across the country conducted more than 100 visits on Capitol Hill, meeting with their members of Congress and letting them know there is a voting constituency that is passionate about the United Nations.

Attendees heard exclusive foreign policy briefings by officials from the United Nations, the United Nations Foundation, and Capitol Hill, including: Sen. Christopher Murphy (D-CT), Kieran Dwyer, Public Affairs Chief, Department of Peacekeeping Operations, United Nations, Kathy Calvin, President & CEO, United Nations Foundation, and Kristin Hetle, Director of Strategic Partnership Division for Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships, UN Women.

For members who were unable to attend this year's meeting, please visit www.unausa.org/annualmeeting to find post-conference materials such as membership toolkits, fact sheets, and advocacy briefings, as well as photos from the event, and full session videos.

Thank you for helping to further the mission of UNA-USA. We hope to see you next year!

Sincerely,
Patrick M. Madden
Executive Director
United Nations Association of the USA
Recap of the Meeting on Capitol Hill

By: Mary Day Kent

The national conference of the UN Association-highlights from a first-time participant.

Although I have been a Board member of the UNA-GP for several years now, I had never attended the national meeting in Washington, DC so I went with great interest to learn the “big picture” of our organization, particularly as we are still reorganizing with the new format as part of the UN Foundation. It was good to meet the national staff, the people behind the emails and newsletters, and to plant the ideas for future cooperation on events and the ever-present membership list challenges. I found the fellow-members friendly and easy to talk to and I particularly liked the fact that they were impressed by some of the things our chapter has been doing: the UN cafes, the ICC project, our yearly Women’s Day event with co-sponsors. In turn, I was very impressed by the strong presence of California branches, about two dozen people who had traveled across country to participate!

The speeches and panels were excellent and very helpful preparation for the final day of lobbying on the Hill: Kieran Dwyer from the UN Dept. of Peacekeeping, Kristin Hetle from UN Women, and Judy Heumann and David Morrissey, expert advocates for Disability Rights with background on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. On the day of our lobbying we had a lunchtime speech from Senator Chris Murphy of Connecticut. I am very glad that he is the youngest serving Senator because that offers hope that he may be in office for many years to come! He was terrific and inspiring in his commitment to make action on climate change the goal of his work in office. In response to a sharply challenging question from the UNA audience about his personal efforts to cut his carbon footprint, it was exhilarating to hear him detail a lengthy specific list of steps he had taken for his senate office, ending up with his plan to visit every town in Connecticut this summer...traveling by Chevy Volt, proving it can be done in a US-made electric vehicle! I look forward to hearing more from, and about, Senator Murphy.

With the company of Jerry Taylor, President of the UNA of Bucks County, I was able to bring the UNA message to Representatives Fattah, Brady, and Fitzpatrick and to our Pennsylvania Senators Casey and Toomey. At Senator Toomey’s office we had a good discussion with his staffer about our shock and disappointment that Senator Toomey had supported both a budget amendment to remove funding from the UN to rebuke China for its domestic reproductive rights violations and also the Senator’s vote to reject the UN Disabilities Rights Convention. The budget amendment did not pass, fortunately, but the negative votes by Toomey and 37 other Senators were enough to block the Disability Rights treaty.

I hope that next year we may be able to pull together a bigger delegation from Philadelphia for the annual meeting. I am glad I went and believe it is an experience we should extend further among our membership!
Please join Project for Nuclear Awareness as we welcome Catherine Thomasson, MD of Physicians for Social Responsibility for a training session to present:

“Nuclear Famine: A Billion People at Risk”

Nuclear weapons are a constant threat to our survival globally. There is no remedy to the humanitarian catastrophe even a single nuclear weapon would create. Learn about PSR’s new report showing the impact of 100 nuclear weapons on grain crop production worldwide. The U.S. public has forgotten this threat and instead a $100 billion “renovation” of our nuclear weapons arsenal is planned. It is time for nuclear weapons abolition. Join the Humanitarian Threats of Nuclear Weapons Campaign.

Friday, June 21st, 6:00 PM
at the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia
1906 Rittenhouse Square Philadelphia, PA 19103

www.pnausa.org
R.S.V.P. info@pnausa.org
GlobalPhilly™ 2013 will consist of a wide array of international and multicultural events and activities sponsored by members of the Global Philadelphia Association, shining a spotlight on the many global dimensions of the Greater Philadelphia Region. From September 15 - October 31, GlobalPhilly™ 2013 will showcase 60-75 events or activities, each of which will be presented by a participating organization, independently or in combination with others. If you are interested in joining this endeavor, please contact Zabeth Teelucksingh, Global Philadelphia Association Executive Director, at zabeth@globalphiladelphia.org. Visit our website at globalphiladelphia.org to learn more.