Dear members and friends of the UNA-GP (and staff and contractors of the CIA, NSA, DIA, FBI ....).

While we try to stay cool in the midst of the Philadelphia summer, world events are making it harder for many of us to do that. Pope Francis went to visit with refugees on the Italian island of Lampedusa and spoke of the “globalization of indifference” as the world has learned to ignore daily suffering. The globalization of concern and community that is the goal of the United Nations and the UNA is the opposite movement, attempting to build a culture of equal human caring and respect. An ongoing drama for the past weeks related to these clashing values is the case of Edward Snowden, former contract employee of a surveillance agency, now an asylum seeker in global limbo after revealing vast monitoring programs previously “hidden in plain sight” with the acquiescence of an indifferent congress and the well-paid millions of employees holding top secret classifications. Without evaluating the content of Snowden’s revelations or second-guessing his choices, I want to note some shocking aspects of the case that the US media have overlooked: stripping a citizen of his nationality is not a legal punishment under US law. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, among other relevant sections, says in Article 14 “Everyone has the right to seek and enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution” and in Article 15 “Everyone has the right to a nationality” and “No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality...”. There is also Article 19, the right to “seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers”! Even those of us in the US who favor the UN often think of it as an altruistic cause, helping others around the world less fortunate than ourselves, not recognizing our own benefits from a strong international human rights framework. Edward Snowden is our latest canary warning us of the erosion of the protections we thought we had.

On a more tranquil note, July also brings our “traditional” Global Garden Party (pg.4) held the week of International Justice Day and this year focused on the equality and participation of women. This uniquely UNA-GP event, now in its 4th year is also a celebration of nature and international community.

We are preparing over the quieter summer months for an outstanding and active fall program, participating in the Global Philadelphia “GP13” international highlight weeks from mid-September to the end of October and leading to multiple exciting events on October 24th for United Nations Day-save the date and watch this space!

With all hopes for peace,

Mary Day Kent
President, UNA-GP
Much work is being undertaken by the UNA-GP these days. I myself am now fully focused on the garden party and trying to implement some of the lessons from last year, while keeping my fingers crossed that the weather will be good (again). Many of our team members are helping out with cleaning and setting up. Meanwhile, we are launching the PeaceDayPhilly Soccer tournament for Sept 22 -- elsewhere in the newsletter you will find a poster about it. Also, our collaboration with the Project for Nuclear Awareness for UN Day is going well. There will be an afternoon and an evening event, for which we have secured the Meeting House on Arch and 4th. One of our speakers will be Dr Julia Sullivan, the daughter of Leon Sullivan and the CEO of the International Foundation for Education and Self Help (IFESH). She will speak on the Global Sullivan Principles, as adopted by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan in 1999. The UN Day will be a celebration of the 70th birth year of the UNA and is listed as a GlobalPhilly2013 event.

Our team is working on brochures and documents to be used for the Model UN Conferences in the coming year, as well as our other programs and projects. It pleases me to state that we have now enough good material on hand to start writing grants and to seek funding in order to scale up. Talks are underway among a few Philadelphians to promote Philadelphia as a birthplace of political thought that has global consequences. The group is a spin off from the ad hoc activities of the Philadelphia Global Initiative on the Rule of Law. Stay tuned for more developments on that front.

Our collaboration outreach activities with high schools and colleges are currently in a bit of a hiatus, except for the NorthWest High School for Peace and Social Justice. Yesterday we met with the new principal, Gina Steiner, to discuss the move of the school to its new location, the Leeds campus. The school needs some volunteers to help with setting up class rooms at the end of July and early August. Moreover, I promised on behalf of the UNA-GP that we would be instrumental with support for a Model UN club and with the blue shelf project in their library. We will start at the school with some great activities on September 20 for the International Day of Peace.

On that note and as a last bit, we have promised to organize a workshop on Peace Day as part of a larger set of activities being organized by folks of American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), Envision Peace Museum, the Penn branch of the Coalition for Peace Action, and others. Stay tuned and come to the party!

Christiaan, Executive Director
Brazil Wide Open to Cyber Invasion
Brazil has become more suspicious of cyber invasion after a former U.S. intelligence contractor and whistle blower Edward Snowden exposed extensive violations of privacy and signals of spying on part of the United States. Brazilian foreign affairs expert Marcos Azambuja explains that “it is a new international order or ‘disorder’, which requires greater technological development at a national level, in first place to determine the scope of the espionage, which in the past was ‘selective, limited’.”
Read More

India: How Farming Families Navigate the Urban Healthcare System
Families in India are finding it more difficult to come across healthcare that is affordable, reliable and legal; they constantly suffer the fear of encountering counterfeit pills, medical fraud, and hidden costs. The changes in India’s healthcare system must be more than skin-deep if farmers are to spend their earnings on food for their families rather than medical bills.
Read More

The Political Scene: Democracy and The Egyptian Coup
Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi was forced out of office last week during widespread and violent protests, the constitution was suspended and a temporary government is now in power. Morsi was elected by a majority of voting Egyptians but “people in the police and in the Army are not allowed to vote” says Peter Hessler. The link below takes you to a brief story and a more detailed podcast that discusses the situation in Egypt.
Read More
The United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia invites you to the 4th annual Garden Party Sunday, July 21st 4:00PM - 9:00PM At 146 Pelham Road Philadelphia, PA 19119

With Speaker:
Tanisha Dyall, Senior Associate, National Membership, UN Foundation

Discussing:
“UNA Women: A Platform for Women’s Empowerment and Activism”

Please R.S.V.P to info@una-gp.org
This is a fundraising event. A donation of $10 at the event to offset the cost of food is appreciated. Cash bar.
Upcoming Events

July 21st, from 4 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. For more information see flyer on page 4.

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

September 22nd - To celebrate the International Day of Peace a soccer tournament is being held. P3 is a soccer tournament that brings together teams from all over Philly to represent different areas of the world. For more information see flyer on page 8.

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.
The UNA-GP Annual Meeting was held on June 20th, 2013 at the beautiful Carriage House building on University of Pennsylvania's campus. It was a great chance to mingle with many of the members of the organization as well as the board members. Many got chances to voice their opinions about the organization and plan for its future and one of the most interesting parts of the gathering was the lecture from our Keynote Speaker, Dr. Charlene Mires, author of Capital of the World: the Race to Host the United Nations: How Philadelphia Fared. Her book, as well as the accompanying lecture, provided an intriguing insight into the inner dealings during the developmental years of the United Nations, and the competition within the cities of the United States, in a charmingly witty manner. Overall, the event was quite successful with the help of everyone involved and we are looking forward to next year’s meeting already!
It is indubitably always heartwarming to see when our ideas and words truly make a difference within a community. This past December, our Executive Director, Christiaan Morssink visited the Independence Charter School as a part of their celebrations of International Human Rights Day, where he introduced the students to the touching story of Malala Yousafzai. Since then, the students have engaged in multiple projects that have honored her story; they have learned about her life, her activism and her determination, even connected that knowledge to their recent study about Afghanistan in an effort to truly take the first steps in becoming Global Citizens. On behalf of the UNA-GP, we thank Amy Leigh, of the Global Education Leadership Team, and all of the teachers and the students of the school in making this happen!
September 22nd, 2013
University of Pennsylvania’s Penn Park
Located on 31st street between the Walnut and South Street Bridges
12pm-8pm
For info please contact
James Parsons at p3soccer4peace@gmail.com
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.