**Dear members and friends of UNA-GP,**

If there is such a season as "peace season", we are heading into it this fall! Please see ahead in this edition of our newsletter for the abundance of opportunities ahead, all of them framed in the first GlobalPhilly international spotlight, Sept.15-Oct.31 sponsored by the Global Philadelphia Association. The UNA-GP will be actively involved in many events, as part of coalitions and cosponsorships as well as directly organizing our own education and advocacy events for peace and international citizenship. Please read the newsletter and events listings, come out for the events, and get in touch if you want to help make them happen!

Mary Day Kent,
President, UNA-GP

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A few words from the Executive Director

From Christiaan’s Desk

Just back from State College, where we took pictures of our son’s PhD graduation party against the backdrop of Penn State’s church, I mean stadium; and now putting my contribution together for the August newsletter. Sorry if it sounds rambling but here it goes.

August is that month when we kind of wonder who will come to meetings, when we feel tired from the year behind us and getting a feeling of anticipation for the work ahead. Let me concentrate a bit on what’s ahead.

We are scaling up our activities and expanding with a few others.

We are very excited with the P3 Soccer tournament scheduled for September 22nd. The tournament is mostly the work of one member, James Parsons, and he needs to get kudos from all sides. It is a sheer pleasure working with him. Please find a flyer about the event elsewhere in the newsletter. Furthermore, we are supporting the Harmony for Peace concert on the evening before (see the announcement elsewhere). UNA-GP members are strongly urged to attend and spread the word. I have promised our coop students, work-study students, interns and fellows a ticket to the concert, if they are interested. Now I need to collect some funds for that. Can you help out, please? The guys from the Envision Peace Museum are part of a group that is putting a great event together for the Peace Day itself. We will announce the details as soon as they become available.

On October 24th, we are creating a double event again, together with the Project for Nuclear Awareness, see elsewhere for announcements. In the afternoon, we are proud to have as speakers Gillian Sorenson of the UN Foundation and Julia Sullivan, daughter of Rev Leon Sullivan, who loves to ‘return to her old stomping grounds’. The evening event will include a reception, and announcements about that event “(Nuclear) Disarmament in light of Humanitarian Need” will be forthcoming soon. Beyond that, I am a member of the Global Citizen Collective of Philadelphia, a small working group that wants to approach our institutions in the city about globalizing our education and our awareness. I’ll keep you posted about their developments.

We need help from our members with preparing these events and others, help in the form of labor, ideas and writing, money, and commitment. We now have volunteers from as far away as Reading, but their time commitments are not always conducive to our meetings and planning. We hope to rely on them for grant writing, preparing documents for our Model UNs, our planned Summer Camp and doing membership outreach. One volunteer, the young journalist Ritu Dixit from Canada, has recently joined us on a regular basis and we hope that she going to help with our communication outreach.

May Peace Prevail on Earth

Christiaan, Executive Director

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, in the short or long term. If interested, please contact:

Manisha Patel
Volunteer Coordinator
Board Member
mpatel@una-gp.org
Mugabe’s Election Victory Challenged by Opposition
Morgan Tsvangirai, Zimbabwe’s former prime minister and main rival to Robert Mugabe, asked the country’s top court on Friday to nullify last month’s election on the grounds that he could have won if all of his supporters were allowed to vote. The appeal, filed by Tsvangirai’s Movement for Democratic Change, asks that the election be declared void, and calls for a new election within 60 days.
Read More

City Council Urged to Break Philly’s ‘Sister City’ Tie With Russian Metropolis
Keystone Progress Executive Director Michael Morrill has started a petition calling for Philadelphia City Council to sever Philly’s “sister city” relationship with Russia’s fifth largest city, Nizhny Novgorod after “anti-gay” laws were put in place.
Read More

The Global Divide on Homosexuality
A recent survey done by the Pew Research Center demonstrates the global divide on homosexuality. While the North America and Europe are making strides in the fight for equality, much of Africa and the Middle East remain opposed to homosexuality.
Read More

Societal Acceptance of Homosexuality
Countries where a majority of those surveyed say that homosexuality...

- Should be accepted
- Should NOT be accepted
- Mixed views

PEW RESEARCH CENTER
Upcoming Events

September 21st - International Day of Peace, multiple events are planned, from workshops on peace and violence prevention at the AFSC, a march for peace and a concert “Youth Harmony for Peace” at the Kimmel Center.

September 22nd at UPenn. To celebrate the International Day of Peace a soccer tournament is being held. P3 brings together teams from all over Philly to represent different areas of the world. (Flyer on page 7)

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. Afternoon event with Gillian Sorensen and Julia Sullivan. In the evening, reception and Haas Peace Award ceremony. In collaboration with the Project for Nuclear Awareness.

November 16th. At Drexel, our first Model UN Conference on Water Management for high schools students, in commemoration of World Toilet Day, November 19th.

December 10th. The Annual celebration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Details to follow.
On 6 and 9 August 1945, the United States dropped nuclear weapons on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. “Indiscriminately stealing the lives of innocent people, permanently altering the lives of survivors, and stalking their minds and bodies to the end of their days, the atomic bomb is the ultimate inhumane weapon and an absolute evil,” said Mayor Kazumi Matsui of Hiroshima in the 2013 Hiroshima Peace Declaration. 68 years after the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the United States, it’s time to consider new, innovative, and daring ways to change the political and economic landscape that currently protects the possession of nuclear weapons from significant challenge. It’s time to ban the bomb.

To Read More Visit This Link

This article was taken from Reaching Critical Will. An organization created to promote and facilitate engagement of non-governmental actors in UN processes related to disarmament.
Come join us to begin a weekend of events celebrating Peace Day Philly 2013 - the International Day of Peace

Friday, September 20th join Peace Day Philly at Hawthorne Park
Special guests will include World Fusion artist Farah Siraj,
described as "the Norah Jones of the Middle East,"
with guitarist Andreas Arnold
and Philadelphia's Poet Laureate Sonia Sanchez

Hawthorne Park - 12th and Catharine
FREE - Begins at 5:30 PM
Bring your blankets and chairs and picnic!

For more information on this and other events: www.peacedayphilly.org

The Mural Arts Porch Light Initiative will be there to engage children and youth
in an arts and wellness activity!

Event Partners and Sponsors:
Philadelphia Plays for Peace

Soccer Tournament
Sunday, September 22nd, 2013
“Ace” Adams Field at the University of Pennsylvania’s Penn Park
Located on 31st street between the Walnut and South Street Bridges
12pm-8pm
For information 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.

You can help the United Nations Association out!

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 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!