Dear friends and members of the United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia (UNA-GP),

For those of us who mark our history by the wars going on and the efforts we experienced to prevent or end them, this present moment is another time of intense fear and hope. Fear of a US unilateral military strike on “Syria” (though not clear who or what exactly will be struck) and the likely consequences of civilian deaths and an opening to widening US direct involvement. Hope from the strong voices coming from across political lines in Congress and the public, questioning this rush to war and the pressure on Congress to give carte blanche to the President on this decision. The United Nations Association has been engaged in an exciting communication among all the 150 chapters on this issue, resulting in the official UNA statement printed elsewhere in this newsletter. As a newish UNA chapter president, I have found it very moving to see and hear my fellow UNA leaders speaking from the heart on the importance of joining together to stop this drive over the cliff. The percentage of the US public that recalls the UN Charter or knows about international law is very low, partly because our media tend to ignore the relevance of international agreements, so it is crucial that groups like UNA lift up our commitments to the UN Charter and push for a US policy that uses international law and the UN system to confront all aspects of the crisis in Syria: the civil war, the overwhelming displacement of the civilian population, the use of chemical weapons to cause (at least) hundreds of deaths. There are international mechanisms and channels to address all of these and now is the time to make the full effort to use them, investing the level of effort and expense that we so easily commit to military actions and seem to find so extremely difficult when it comes to strengthening the institutions of peacemaking and international justice.

To expand on these points I have excerpted here below from the summary done by Jaqueline Cabasso of the Western States Legal Foundation (www.wslfweb.org), a distinguished and groundbreaking disarmament organization.

continued on page 2
Since World War I, use of chemical weapons has been viewed almost universally as monstrous, and as a violation of treaty-based and customary standards of international humanitarian law. If they were used in Syria by any party, that action should be condemned, and all states should cooperate in identifying the perpetrators and in pursuing their apprehension and prosecution by all legal means. There is no provision of international law, however, that allows ad hoc coalitions of countries to determine for themselves who they believe the guilty parties to be, and to punish them by acts of war against the territory of a sovereign state. The United Nations Charter allows unilateral military action only where a country is under attack or imminent threat of attack. None of the countries proposing the use of force against Syria can make any claim that Syria has attacked them, or that they are under imminent threat of attack. International treaties outlawing chemical weapons and prohibiting their use provide no special exception for such ad hoc use of military force. To the contrary, the Chemical Weapons Convention, the most comprehensive instrument concerning chemical weapons, provides for investigation of alleged violations by specialist bodies constituted by the Convention and recourse to the United Nations to authorize any use of force.

- International law provides no exception for the ad hoc use of force by states in cases involving the actual or possible use of prohibited weapons, such as chemical weapons, by states with which they are not at war. Standing alone, the allegations of chemical weapons use by the Syrian government do not provide a legal basis for military action by any non-party to the conflict.
- Unilateral punitive strikes justified as a defense of the global norm against chemical weapons are unlikely to actually protect Syrians or others against use of chemical weapons and other attacks, may do little to reinforce the norm or even undermine it, and could lead to a significant increase in the level of violence throughout the region.
- There are viable international ways and means to respond to the apparent use of chemical weapons in Syria that should be vigorously pursued before the use of force is considered.
- For U.S. elected officials, saying no to the easy, violent options offered by a national security and military industrial complex too long ascendant would be the hard choice, the courageous choice, and the right choice.

Mary Day

Mary Day Kent,
President, UNA-GP
Yearning for peace, weary of war and wary of politicians; such is my state of mind these days. When you read this, the 12th anniversary of 9/11 is just behind us. The long term impacts of that infamous attack are in many ways still unfolding as the unleashed fury of the people has been used by our elected officials to create a new “landscape”, with new values, new structures and new national objectives. The Syria debate, while neglecting the starvation in Somalia, or the schools in our cities, is just one case in point.

UNA-GP is working in that new landscape with a vision that not only should we work towards a constructive participation with the United Nations, but that actually we must see the United Nations System as an existential need for each and every nation, even for donor nations like the U.S.A. We would do well in many policy arenas to work with the United Nations System as the first place of reference.

That vision is playing out in the way we approach our educational programs here in Philadelphia, how we promote collaborations with others, how we help create new entities like the Global Philadelphia Association. It underscores the theme of our U.N. Day event, understanding Global Citizenship not only as an ideal-typical construct, but as a form for active local participation in the affairs of humankind with a focus on peace and social justice, while using the lessons of environmental sustainability and survivability as the milestones by which we set our course.

I am hiring new work study students, we have some eager volunteers in an age range that gives me hope for the future and we are embarking on some grant writing activities to obtain funding for our work; we need funds to build the capacity for creating some new projects, and improving existing ones. It is good working with young people who think big and who can envision their positive roles on the pathway towards an ever more perfect union of nations; all for sake of humanity. I am not wary of hope, no indeed.

Christiaan, Executive Director
Mexico Girds for Education Standoff After Contentious Bill Passes
Mexican teachers from the dissident caucus la CNTE (The Coordinadora Nacional de Trabajadores de la Educación) are camped out in Mexico City’s main square, demanding repeal of an education reform. President Peña Nieto vows to press on with overhaul plans, urges lawmakers to ignore pressure as teachers clamor in street.
Read More

Indian Mujahideen Leader Yasin Bhatkal Captured By Security Forces
One of India’s most wanted Islamists has been arrested in a security forces operation on the border with Nepal. Yasin Bhatkal, the alleged operations head of the Indian Mujahideen, was arrested from north Bihar, close to the Nepal border several weeks ago.
Read More

Landmark Treaty For Domestic Workers Comes Into Force
On September 5, 2013 The International Labour Organization’s Domestic Workers Convention, established in 2011 came into action and thus became a binding international law for ILO (International Labor Organization) member states. The convention extends basic labour rights to domestic workers around the globe; member states include Bolivia, Italy, Mauritius, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Philippines, South Africa and Uruguay.
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World Leaders Pressure Obama Over Syria At G20 Summit
President Barack Obama faces growing pressure from world leaders to decide against launching military strikes in Syria. On Thursday September 12, 2013 Obama will meet with several world leaders including Vladimir Putin at the G20 summit in Russia to discuss Syria, investments, creating jobs and a variety of other pressing global issues. Stay tuned.
Read More

‘Terrible Dullness’ In German Election Campaign
As the election campaigns reach their climax in Germany, seasoned campaign manager Frank Stauss says he’s has been bored by the tame offensives of the two rivals. The election between the Christian Democrats and the Social Democrats will take place on September 22, 2013.
Read More

Young People Gather At UN To Discuss How To Achieve Global Development Targets
On August 7th 2013 hundreds of young people from across the world have gathered at United Nations Headquarters in New York to find different alternatives of inspiring youth leadership and accelerate the achievement of the anti-poverty targets known as the Millennium Development Goals.
Read More

Record Number Of People With HIV Now Accessing Antiretroviral Treatment – UN
In a statement released by UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) on June 30th, it was revealed that in the last year people accessing antiretroviral treatment rose by 1.6 million; allowing for nearly 10 million people living with HIV to access antiretroviral treatment.
Read More
Upcoming Events

September 19th All are invited to join a Shot at Life’s and UNAGP “Shot for Shots” fundraiser! With your door donation (100% of which will be handed over to this great cause), enjoy 1/2 price ALL drinks and appetizers from 6-9 P.M. See More on Page 9

October 10-12 PaCIE’s (Pennsylvania Council for International Education) Annual Conference will take place at the Sheraton Philadelphia University City Hotel, Theme: Building Global Competence through Collaborative Strategies in International Education. Two UNA-GP boardmembers are presenting

October 16: 4:00-6:00 at Rutgers Camden Campus. World Food Day 2013: “Global Perspectives on Food Justice” The World Food Day theme for 2013 is “sustainable food systems for food security and nutrition.” Speakers will shed light on perspectives and strategies for food justice outside of the US. This event is part of the Rutgers Global Health Biennial Theme Year.

October 24th, United Nations Day:
Afternoon event: “Global Citiizenship In Action: Peace And Social Justice For A Sustainable Future” See Announcement on Page 11

October 24th United Nations Day:
Evening event: Reception and Award ceremony (Organized by Project for Nuclear Awareness): See Announcement on Page 12

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

December 10th. The Annual celebration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Details to follow.
International Peace Day Events

International Peace Day is September 21, as is Peace Day Philly! For a full list of the many events and activities around the day, visit the Peace Day Philly events calendar [here](#).

Here are some activities of special interest to UNA-GP members and friends:

### Drexel Teach-in for Peacebuilding
**Tuesday, September 17, 2013 at 1:00pm-6:00pm**
Drexel University, The James E. Marks Intercultural Center, 33rd St. and Chestnut St. Concurrent workshops will be provided on the following topics: Non-violent conflict resolution, Peace education, Gender and peacebuilding, International organizations and Mediation. To learn more please contact Jessica Kratzer at JKK55@drexel.edu or 215-895-1863. To register for this free event, click [HERE](#).

### A New Global Future: Peace Day Philly at the Friends Center
**Saturday, September 21 at 10am - 4pm**
Friends Center, 15th and Cherry Sts.
Philadelphia, PA 19102
$10 donation suggested Parking: $10 with validation if you park at the lot on 15th between Race and Cherry Sts.
The UNA-GP will hold a workshop in the afternoon, focusing on the current scope of U.N. peace keeping, and the new dimensions on peace keeping that are unfolding in the DRC with active involvement in that conflict. UNA-GP will involve the participants in the "Thank a Peace Keeper" program of the UN Foundation. To choose your workshops and to register, click [HERE](#).

### Peace Day Philly 2013: "What Can You Do For Peace?" Kickoff Event
**Friday, September 20th at 5:30-7:30pm**
Hawthorne Park, 12th and Catherine Streets, Philadelphia. Flyer on page 8
Free and Family Friendly - Bring your blankets, chairs and food if you wish!
Peace Day Philly welcomes you to this community event to kick off a weekend of peace and unity building activities in observance of the U.N. International Day of Peace. The Mural Arts Porch Light Program will be there to engage kids in a wellness arts activity, and officers from the 3rd Police District will share community resources.

### International Peace Day Concert
**Saturday, September 21 at 7pm**
The Kimmel Center, Broad and Spruce Sts., Center City
Presented By: The Harmony for Peace Foundation
Tickets are available at the Kimmel Center Box Office. Tickets: $28 - $58 - senior and students discount 10%. Buy Tickets [HERE](#)
The Harmony for Peace Foundation's very special event will feature young virtuosos from around the world. The evening will include performances by special guests "Duo Amal", a piano duo, Israeli Yaron Kohlberg and Palestinian Bishara Haroni, who have been performing together to promote peace and friendship beyond borders. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about this concert.

### P3 - Philadelphia Plays for Peace
**September 22 at 12-8pm**
University of Penn Campus, 31st St. btwn the Walnut and South St. Bridges
This event is being organized by a coalition of Philadelphia-based partners using soccer as a platform for peace, competition, and community engagement. Collaborating organizations include SEAMAAC, Congreso, Palms Solutions and the United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia. For this event's Facebook Page and event flier, click [HERE](#) or on page 10.
The United Nations Association Presents
The U.N Cafe
A discussion about

Egypt's Political Struggle

With speaker Daniel V. Friedheim
A Drexel professor

Sunday, September 22nd
3:30 - 5:00

Second floor of Ross Commons
34th and Powelton
Peace Day Philly 2013 - 
What Can YOU Do For Peace Kick Off Event

Special guests will include
World Fusion Artist Farah Siraj with guitarist Andreas Arnold
Philadelphia’s Poet Laureate Sonia Sanchez
And drummers Marcy Francis & Jan Jeffries of The ArtWell

Friday, September 20 - Begins at 5:30pm
Hawthorne Park, 12th and Catharine St.
FREE

Bring your blankets, chairs and picnic!

For more about this and other PDP 2013 events: www.peacedayphilly.org

The Mural Arts' Porch Light Program will be there with kids’ arts activities

Event Partners and Sponsors:
Hawthorne Empowerment Coalition & 3rd Police District
On behalf of the United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia and Shot@Life and Eliminate Maternal/ Neonatal Tetanus - Philly, we want to invite you all to this amazing Happy Hour fundraiser at Tavern on Broad. Come out and drink for a cause, have a good time. For a $5 cover charge, you will get 1/2 priced drinks and appetizers along with raffles, games and access to three special shots for $3.

- **Kamikaze (Vodka, Triple Sec, and Lime Juice)**
- **Blue Thrill (Blue Curacao, Vodka, and Lemonade)**
- **Green Jolly Rancher (Sour Apple Pucker, Vodka, Sprite, and Sour Mix)**

The money will go to a great cause! Shot@Life provides crucial life-saving vaccines to needy children all over the world, without which their chances of survival would be significantly reduced. By buying a shot you give Shot@Life the opportunity to give a child in need a shot of their own, one that could save their life!
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
A symposium that will place our own Global Sullivan Principles squarely into the movement for globalized education and fair, sustainable labor and business practices

The symposium will be followed by an evening event, organized by the Project for Nuclear Awareness; that event will focus on disarmament in light of humanitarian needs and will include the Haas Peace Award. Please note that the venue for the symposium has limited seating and we urge you to indicate your interest as soon as possible.

To sign up, please send an email to info@una-gp.org
For questions email Morssink@una-gp.org

*GlobalPhilly2013 is a special program of the Global Philadelphia Association (www.globalphiladelphia.org)
DISARMAMENT IN LIGHT OF HUMANITARIAN NEED*

Project for Nuclear Awareness

United Nations Day Wine Reception and Awards Ceremony

OCTOBER 24, 2013
6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
4th and Arch Streets Quaker Meeting House, Philadelphia, PA

The John C. & Chara C. Haas Award for International Peace and Social Justice and the Eisendrath Award for Youth Advocacy.

We proudly present the 5th annual John C. & Chara C. Haas Award for International Peace and Social Justice to Dr. Joseph Gerson to celebrate his lifetime commitment and service to nuclear abolition, in honor of John C. Haas, co-founder of Project for Nuclear Awareness. Dr. Gerson is Director of Programs for the Northeast Region and the Director of Peace and Economic Security Program for the American Friends Service Committee. His many publications, his thoughtful analyses, and his tireless, effective advocacy have been a source of global inspiration.

Our distinguished guest speaker will be Dr. Julie Sullivan, President and CEO of the International Foundation for Education and Self-Help. From Philadelphia, and the daughter of Reverend Leon Sullivan, Zion Baptist Church minister, civil rights leader and a social and economic justice activist supporting the anti-Apartheid Movement in South Africa, Dr. Sullivan will speak about global humanitarian needs in light of the tax dollars spent on the global weapons industry.

The 2nd Annual Eisendrath Award for Youth Advocacy in Nuclear Disarmament will be given in honor of Dr. Craig Eisendrath, co-founder and chairman of Project for Nuclear Awareness, to a young person who has exhibited a commitment to achieving a peaceful world free from the threat of nuclear weapons.

The evening wine reception and awards ceremony will follow an afternoon symposium, organized by the United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations Association (1943-2013).

Please note, there is limited seating. Please register before October 5th.

RSVP at info@pnausa.org

Free private parking available

*A GlobalPhilly2013 Event

GlobalPhilly2013 is a special program of the Global Philadelphia Association
Advocacy Update From The United Nations Association Of The United States Of America

Update On Syria: U.S. Considers Diplomatic Solutions

Last night, President Obama said he will work with France and the United Kingdom to put forward a resolution at the UN Security Council requiring Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to transfer control of its chemical weapons to the international community for safe storage and destruction.

Although a number of negotiations and discussions still need to take place before a deal can be reached, a diplomatic solution through the UN is back on the table. Stay tuned for more information from UNA-USA as the events continue to unfold.

UNA-USA Voices Position for Potential Action on Syria

Over the past ten days, UNA-USA leaders from across the country have led a rapid response effort to craft a member-driven policy response to the unfolding crisis in Syria and pending legislative action. The position statement developed through this process represents the collaborative efforts of UNA-USA Council of Chapters Steering Committee members, Regional Representatives, Chapter Presidents, and staff at the UNA-USA National Office to address a pressing international affairs and human rights issue. The statement was sent to all members of Congress. Read the full statement here.

In addition, read the Executive Committee of the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) statement on Syria.

Leo Nevas Task Force Continues to Promote U.S.-UN Cooperation on Syria

In the more than two years since the most recent crisis in Syria began, UNA-USA’s Leo Nevas Human Rights Task Force has been out in front advocating for strong U.S. leadership on the Human Rights Council and resolutions condemning violence in Syria. For an in-depth account on the Task Force’s actions related to Syria, read the following blog from the Leo Nevas Human Rights Fellow.

Learn the Latest on Advancing the MDGs and Post-2015

The process to inform and help shape the Post-2015 agenda to advance the Millennium Development Goals beyond 2015 is well underway. The summer saw much progress; read important updates, outcomes, reports, and stories in UNA-USA's September update. For more information on the Post-2015 process, visit here.

Chapters/Divisions Selected for Post-2015 Consultations

Earlier this summer, UNA-USA announced it would be partnering with the UN on leading U.S. consultations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. As part of this partnership, the following 10 Chapters/Divisions have been selected to lead official consultations in their communities:

Greater Chicago Chapter, Greater Kansas City Chapter, Greater Seattle Chapter, Iowa UNA, North Carolina, Northern California Division, Southern California Division, Southern New York State Division, UNA Denver, UNA Tampa Bay. Congratulations, and thanks to all that applied!

All UNA-USA Chapters have the opportunity to conduct a post-2015 consultation. This fall, UNA-USA will release a toolkit that will give step-by-step instructions for conducting a consultation. If you need additional information, please contact the Membership Department. Visit here for more information on the Post-2015 process.

Thank A Peacekeeper Today!

In partnership with the Better World Campaign, UNA-USA presents an opportunity to rally entire communities behind the work of the United Nations, while supporting the vital work of UN Peacekeepers. “Thank a Peacekeeper” cards were distributed to Chapters that requested them.

The three Chapters that return the most UN Peacekeeper thank you notes to UNA-USA will be invited to New York City to present the notes to the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Your cards must be received by the UNA-USA National Office by Thursday, September 19 to be considered for the contest. Please send to:

UNA-USA
Attn: Laura Giroux
1800 Massachusetts Ave, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20036

For more information, please visit our website.
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.

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!