Join us for a celebration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and debate with us on how this document is now used for promoting rights issues everywhere. Without this document, our demands for health, social and environmental justice would still be framed in the specificities of the regional experiences. We now have a universal moral code to work from. So this year we focus on the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

UNA-GP Celebrates UDHR:
December 9th, 5.00PM-8.00PM
The Ethical Society
1906 Rittenhouse Square
food; cash bar.

Program:
A. Mingling and Greeting
B. Welcome by Mary Day Kent and a toast to Eleanor Roosevelt
C. Film clip on the movement “Idle No More”
D. Short testimonies by Mary Day Kent, Christiaan Morssink, others
E. Keynote by Ed Nakawatase

Statement from Keynote speaker Ed Nakawatase: I served AFSC National Representative for Native American Affairs (1974-2005) in the Community Relations Division/Unit. In that role, I coordinated and supported AFSC programs with Native peoples throughout the US. Previously was staff for the Third World Coalition in AFSC (1972-74). My first connection with AFSC came in the summer of 1965 when I worked as a community organizer in South Jersey to establish local community action boards. I was an observer at the first session (1983) of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations in Geneva; the UN’s first structural effort to deal with indigenous peoples. AFSC supported efforts of indigenous peoples petitioning UN in Geneva initially to examine conditions of indigenous communities, in 1977 primarily focused in the Western Hemisphere, and then in 1980 to monitor indigenous land issues more broadly.

The UN Working Group began crafting the UN Declaration on the Rights Of Indigenous Peoples in this period around 1983; the process culminated in the passage of the Declaration by the UN General Assembly in 2007. The Declaration established standards for the treatment of indigenous peoples, and, in groundbreaking fashion, affirmed the distinctive identities of indigenous peoples and their rights as collective entities. (AFSC, by action of its Board, endorsed the UN Declaration in its draft form in 1997, probably the first and, for many years it seemed, the only non-indigenous organization to do so.)

I currently serve as president of the board of Asian Americans United (AAU), a progressive activist group in Philadelphia. I am a trustee of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures (FACTS) Charter School in Chinatown, an institution begun in large part by AAU. I am also a member of the AFSC Board Program Committee, as well as the Indian Committee of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. After about 40 years of procrastination I became an official Quaker in 2007, joining the Germantown Friends Meeting where I now clerk the Racial Justice Committee.
From President Mary Day Kent

Dear members and friends of UNA-GP,

As the cultural year moves into the official "holiday season" we are also looking forward to one of our most important holidays in the United Nations world calendar: Human Rights Day, December 10th, the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adoption by the UN General Assembly. For various practical reasons, we will be celebrating this year on Human Rights Day Eve, Dec. 9th, with an event focused on the rights of Native Americans and Indigenous Peoples and the role of the UN in defining their rights internationally. We will meet at the Ethical Society (1906 Rittenhouse Sq.) from 5-8 pm. (See page five for more details.) The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is the umbrella for almost everything we do on behalf of the UN and our role as global citizens, members of a responsible world community. We hold an event every year both to celebrate this achievement of the UN that benefits us all, and to learn more about the challenges we face to make these rights a living reality for everyone.

While the holidays pick up full steam (UDHR day included!) I want to put in a reminder to us all to give ourselves the gift of UNA membership or renewal for the year ahead. Keeping our membership current (www.unausa.org) makes our chapter and association stronger and enhances the impact we can have to support US involvement in a strong United Nations. Our voices will be heard in Congress but they will ring much louder the more members we can claim!

Looking forward to seeing you on Dec. 9th, if not before.

YOUTH BUILDING ROOTS!

Arame Niang:

I am a new member of the UNA-GP team and the Project Manager of the 2013-14 Youth Building Roots (YBR) program. YBR aims to bring a global perspective to education on nutrition, hunger, and food access in middle school classrooms and combine that with community action. We offer the opportunity for students to learn about these topics in the global context by opening up dialogue with others. In the past, the program has worked with students in Benin but this year we are expanding our communication to include students in India and Senegal.

Youth Building Roots is a three-part program. Part 1, Youth Building Knowledge, involves a 1-hour classroom discussion and activities. Part 2, Propagation Party in class, involves the planting of seeds and instructions about “nurturing nature.”. Part 3 of the Youth Building Roots program will occur on International Youth Service Day or Earth Day. The students will then be addressed by local Philadelphia nonprofits about their work on urban nutrition and agriculture. A video-conference will allow the students in Philadelphia to discuss these issues with the students in Benin, India and Senegal. After the video-conference, the students will all go out into their respective communities to plant trees and seedlings.

We invite any middle schools in the Philadelphia area to participate in this fun, interactive, educational opportunity with UNA-GP, Novi NGO (the nonprofit organizing the events in Benin but also located here in Philadelphia), and other local partners. If you are an educator or would like to get involved, email me at arame.niang@una-gp.org.
By Anastasia Shown

We celebrated another World Food Day on October 16th 2013. This year’s event, Global Perspectives on Food Justice, was organized by board member, Anastasia Shown. It was held on the Rutgers University, Camden campus and attended by 42 people, many of whom are students from the University of Pennsylvania, Rutgers University, Temple University, Drexel University and Philadelphia University. The theme for 2013 was “sustainable food systems for food security and nutrition.” Our invited panelists shed light on perspectives and strategies for sustainable food justice here and abroad. Heidi Witmer, founder and director of the LEAF Project, which stands for leadership, education and farming, spoke on the importance of advocacy, legislation and youth involvement. Witmer grew up on a farm and spent some time during and after college working abroad on community development projects in schools, with women and with the United Nations. Witmer gave examples on how local decisions can determine global outcomes. Megan Doherty, Associate Director of International & Local Service Learning Programs at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Engineering shared her research on the growing incidence of non-communicable diseases in the developing world. She argues that focusing solely on infectious diseases like malaria and HIV, will leave millions more suffering from preventable cases of type 2 diabetes, heart disease, asthma, etc. She shared stories about living in Mali and Ghana and how the food and work culture has drastically shifted in many communities towards processed food consumption. Sophia Lafontant, Senior Alliance Advisor for Oxfam America, shared the results of a recent investigation by Oxfam that found the biggest brand names in the food and beverage industry are relying on suppliers who have grabbed land from small sugar farmers in countries like Cambodia and Brazil. Oxfam launched a new campaign this World Food Day to stop land grabbing. The campaign is targeted towards Coke, Pepsi and British Associated Foods. Our own Christiaan Morssink spoke about the history of the World Food Program and the approaches the agency has used over the years to combat hunger around the world. He advocated for educated public to push agencies like the WFP to use more sustainable approaches that rid the world of its food equity imbalance. World Food Day 2013 was also supported by Rutgers Global Health Biennial Theme Year, Rutgers School of Social Work, University of Pennsylvania’s Africa Center, Middle East Center, Center for East Asian Studies and South Asia Center, Oxfam America, and the Global Philadelphia Association.
“Global Citizenship in Action: why we care”

By Ariane Heffinck

On October 24th of 2013, United Nations Day, the UNA-GP celebrated the 70th Anniversary of the UNA-USA and organized a gathering at the Quaker meeting house for “Global Citizenship in Action: Peace and Social Justice for a Sustainable Future”.

It was cold in the meetinghouse and the afternoon started off very brisk and chilly, but the temperature in the room was quickly forgotten as the attendees, including students from Northeast High and Bodine settled in their seats and the event commenced. Honoring Leon Sullivan as a global Philadelphian was part of the program and all attendees were given a specially drafted handout, that included a hot-off-the-press encyclopedia entry about the Sullivan Principles. Welcome remarks were made by President Mary Day Kent and Christiaan Morssink. The first speaker was Dr. Julie Sullivan (CEO of IFESH and daughter of reverend Leon Sullivan). In a touching and impassioned speech Dr. Sullivan highlighted the importance of the application and practice of the Sullivan principles in the creation of globalized education and fair business practices around the world. Through her personal account of her work with IFESH she was able to inspire her audience. The Q and A period showed a strong interest among students for this kind of work.

The second speaker was Dr. Raffi Gregorian, Director of the State Department’s Office for Peace Operations and Counterterrorism. He spoke on the mechanics of making peace and the hard work that goes into bringing to the table people who do not want to be at that table. Being a man with a extensive experience and involvement in peace operations, Dr. Gregorian spoke with a profound understanding of the importance of maintaining globalized peace and civil order. He entertained questions from the audience with good reference to his own experiences in the Balkans and elsewhere.

The session ended with a direct reference to the Peace Keeping Program of the United Nations. Two short but potent videos were played, after which we introduced our “Thank-A-Peacekeeper-Program” in which each attendee had the opportunity to create a personalized message to thank a peacekeeper for their hard work.

In the aftermath, many of the attendees took pictures in front of the poster collage made by our intern Sarra Siraj. Overall, we found the program a success, worthy of repeat.

Rule of Law Model UN

by Charlotte Benham

Students today have access to a global marketplace of information with just a touch of a button. From social networking websites to blogosphere and other news outlets, the Internet provides an exposure to the inequities and injustices of regions around the world. Moreover, the Internet also provides points of comparison to highlight the injustices in the students’ own neighborhoods. However, students often find the moral space a difficult one to navigate due to the sheer amount of information presented to them. Because students lack a systematic method to analyze the root causes of the injustices, they cannot make critical value judgments and as a result view world problems as too complex to tackle. We can no longer afford to disenfranchise the youth from the moral capital that they need to embody. We will equip the youth with analytical tools to make value judgments and break down complex problems into their component parts. We will to empower the youth with the conviction that a problem is never too big to tackle. We will instill a sense of civic duty towards their local community. We will call the youth to contribute to the collective narrative of humanity as global citizens.

In order to achieve this, we have prepared a comprehensive ten-session lesson plan endorsed by some of the regional leaders of the industry. The lesson plan aims to lay the foundation of analyzing inequality through a legal lens. Specifically, we will use World Justice Project’s Rule of Law Index to encourage students to engage in rigorous, methodical thinking. The program will culminate with a conference designed to have our students present proposals to tackle local issues by applying the best practices for addressing inequities in other regions of the world.
From Christiaan’s Desk

It was a spectacularly busy month since my last blurb, starting with the PaCIE (Pennsylvania Council for International Education) annual conference and finishing with the APHA (American Public Health Association) convention in Boston. The month also ended on a high note, as my wife Shiriki won the election for President-elect.

In Boston, we found that the Mix and Mingle lounge of APHA was sponsored by the UN Foundation. The foundation also had its own booth. Moreover, several of our friends were there, pushing the global agenda. Physicians for Social Responsibility and the Union of Concerned Scientists each promoted global themes. Women Rights organizations were there in full force. The APHA section on International Health of course promoted the UNMDGs, and members of the Section of Disability lamented the negative vote in the senate regarding the treaty of the rights of persons with disabilities. Beyond that I witnessed the rebirth of the Global Health Council, a new Masters in Global Public Health Program, and at the booth of Hesperian Publishers we discussed a possible new line of publications, around the theme: “where there is no bank”; a theme, that fits as well in West Philadelphia as in Yonso, Ghana.

I am a public health professional, and the APHA convention is my annual revival meeting. I get energized, there are new venues to explore, and global pathways to forge for the young ones. It is all great stuff from which we in the UNA-GP can draw our inspiration for our events and agenda. For example, we are working on our UDHR event, Dec 9, and the theme is the Declaration the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples; it so happens, that the closing session of the APHA conference was a forum on the health rights of the aboriginal peoples in North America, with strong testimonies from Dr. Evan Tlesla Adams, Donald Warne, and D. Kawika Liu. Go figure. Expect to hear soon about our program. Mary Day Kent and I are meeting on Monday to hammer out the details. Feel free, no feel welcome, to join us on December 9. Also check out the calendar on the website at [http://una-gp.org/calendar-of-events/](http://una-gp.org/calendar-of-events/).

Model UN on the Rule of Law:

by Daniel Bu.

The UNA-GP’s own spin on the Model United Nations Conference is going to kick off again in four months. Our Model United Nations conference (MUN for short) differs from the usual model in several ways. The normal MUN is based on problems such as theoretical outbreaks of pandemics or armed warfare. While there is a place for these, we’ve taken the structure of the usual MUN and transplanted it into the very concrete, applicable topic of the Rule of Law. Participants last year drafted resolutions on subjects such as “regulatory enforcement” and “civil justice”. Each time, they started from the context of a cross-country NGO and ended up applying this framework into the current events of Philadelphia, their neighborhoods and their own backyards. While the usual conference usually is held at a hotel with registration fees of a few hundred dollars, our conference at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania was held at no cost to participants. This has enabled us to invite six schools of very diverse backgrounds last year. Student-teachers from the UNA-GP taught at each of the schools over the course of a month and a half. It was truly a rewarding experience to see some of the students synthesize the abstract thinking and practical application for the first time. Currently, the team is finishing a curriculum revision. Stay tuned to hear about the launch of our next MUNRoL, scheduled for March 1, 2014.
Global Citizenship in action: Peace and Social Justice for a Sustainable Future

Program:

3:00 - 3:20  Welcoming, mingling, seating
3:20 - 3:25  Welcome by Mary Day Kent, president UNA-GP
3:32 - 4.00  Dr. Julia Sullivan speaking on the topic of Social Justice and the Sullivan Principles, followed by Q and A.
4:00 - 4:05  Stretch in the seat
4:05 - 4:06  Introduction of Dr. Raffi Gregorian
4:06 - 4:40  Dr. Raffi Gregorian speaking on the topic of the Mechanics of Peace Making, followed by Q and A.
4:40 - 5.00  ‘Thank a Peacekeeper Program’
   • Film Clip
   • Signing Cards,
   • Making a pledge

5.00  Adjourn.
Merkel calls Obama about 'US spying on her phone'

Last month German Chancellor Angela Merkel contacted President Barak Obama suspicious of phone tapping to her mobile line. In response the these claims Obama stated that the tapping has not been done to the Chancellor’s line. This possible breach of trust has left many European allies concerned about American spying.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-24647268

As part of peace efforts, UN-Arab League envoy meets Syrian President in Damascus

On October 30th the Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the League of Arab States, Lakhdar Brahimi, met with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in hopes of achieving peace and security by negotiation.


Ethiopia plans Africa's biggest dam

The $2.5 billion dollar project will take water from the Nile River, which gets 86% of its water supply from Ethiopia, in an effort to manage trans-boundary water supply. Ethiopia hopes to complete the building of the dam by July 2017.

http://www.afrol.com/articles/38393

Philippines: UN humanitarian wing announces $25 million for typhoon relief efforts

On Monday November 11th, 2013 the United Nations said that 10,000 people were feared dead in the stricken Philippine city of Tacloban, after super typhoon Haiyan. $25 million from the world body’s emergency fund have been released to aid the people in the city.


Muslim world voices concern about Islamic extremism

A study done in September by the Pew Center for Research found that 67% of the Muslims express their concern about religious extremist groups operating in their country. Between suicide bombers and extremely violent acts it has become hard to for Muslims to accept such extremism in the name of religion.

New Co-op and Interns

Hello, my name is Jesse Ferrante and I am a Drexel Co-op student for UNA-GP. I am currently studying to be a mechanical engineer and plan to graduate from Drexel in 2017. This may be my first time working with the United Nations Association, but I have participated in similar peace promoting organizations. In the ninth grade I was recommended and accepted into the People to People Student Ambassador Program. I spent two weeks immersed in Japan and even got to spend three days with a home stay family. I agreed to go for two reasons: It was a once in a lifetime opportunity and I love history. This was a chance to experience history going back a lot longer than ours here in America. I am very happy to have gotten this Co-op job with UNA-GP and look forward to the interesting discussions over the next few months.

Our website offers information about our mission, upcoming events, and ways to get involved—including joining the UNA-GP and volunteering! In addition, we are on social media sites and send out our monthly newsletter. Check us out! [http://una-gp.org/](http://una-gp.org/)

Volunteers with all types of skill sets are welcome to work with the UNA-GP! Contact:

Manisha Patel

Strategic Initiatives
Volunteer Coordinator
Board Member

mpatel@una-gp.org
LOOK AHEAD

UN Day 2014: Peace Keepers or Peace Makers??