Dear members and friends of the UNA-GP,

I come back to Philadelphia with great admiration for all who made it through the many snows of this winter. The blooming trees and springing daffodils can’t hide the broken branches strewn all over from the ice storms, even without the sagas everyone has of the struggle to get into work or waiting for the power to be turned back on. April brings an interesting combination of spring joy, family and religious celebrations, and the secular ritual that involves transferring enormous sums of money from the pockets of citizens to the treasury of the United States government. The Congress is in full debate about how to spend all our billions, and a very small portion of that debate affects the United Nations and other international agencies (World Health Organization, International Labor Organization, World Trade Organization, etc.). The international affairs portion of the US federal budget hovers around 1% of the total, with usually a struggle to keep it that high, and very rarely, there are years when it reaches 1.5% or even slightly higher. This is the budget that funds disaster relief, humanitarian aid to refugees, the State Department, USAID, and—crucially—our mandatory UN dues and our commitments to UN Peacekeeping missions. Part of the value of building a strong United Nations Association is to strengthen the voice of those who believe that meeting international commitments and funding diplomacy is an essential national responsibility and indeed, an essential form of long-range security. We have many UNA-GP events coming up in the next couple of months, but I hope that many of us will also find the time to call or write our Representatives and Senators to speak up for the importance of full and "robust" funding for the international affairs budget and especially for full funding to meet our UN dues and the costs of international peacekeeping missions. (All peacekeeping missions are authorized by the Security Council, so the US has voted for all of them.)

Congressional Switchboard number, 202-224-3121, will reach any Senator or Representative you ask for. If you are not sure of your Representative, the Library of Congress website, www.thomas.gov, has a handy resource to link your address to your congressional district.

Looking forward to working together for the coming months and seeing many of you at UNA-GP events and activities.

Mary Day

Mary Day Kent, President, UNA-GP
A few words from our Executive Director

From Christiaan’s Desk

In the area of education I also hope to launch a new discussion about a case competition for college students from Philadelphia’s campuses; this all based on the experience I had when attending Emory’s Global Health Case Competition in late March.

Travel and Spring breaks led to a breakdown of our team meetings. We have not been able to get all of our volunteers, work study students and interns together in one room and the same time. With the final weeks of the semester in front of us, I do not think that we will be able to re-group. I hope to meet with several of our team members in smaller groups and make an assessment of the activities during this academic year, which is also notover yet. This pertains especially to our ideas and plans for the Youth Building Roots program and the Blue Shelf Initiative, but also for a side activity that relates to fair trade, and empowering youth in rural areas.

On the advocacy front things have been a bit quiet, especially with Mary Day in Colombia, yet we established a collaborative effort in that field with Ed Aguilar of the Coalition for Peace Action. Looking forward, I hope that we can discuss at our next board meeting on April 26th USA meeting in early June for some direct talks with staff of our representatives. After the board meeting I will attend a fundraising event of the Harmony for Peace Foundation, the organization we hope to sponsor for their Peace Day Concert in September. We will be organizing the Red Cross, Red Crescent Day event again this year, and I just learned this week that Jamie Whalen of Shot-at-Life will attend. [See elsewhere for a brochure/flier about this fundraising event]. We are collaborating with others and we hope to see many of our members at this meeting. The focus will be on the plight of children in areas of conflict and the lifelong perils they may face in terms of diseases and metal stress disorders.

On a personal note, I will be attending a dinner affair of Common Cause, to celebrate its 40th anniversary. [See elsewhere in newsletter]. This dinner is a fundraiser. I hope to get several of our members and friends to join so that we can have a “global” table. Two of my friends and I have put together enough funds to invite 6 students, who are recommended by their professors. I applied for membership in the United Nations Federal Credit Union, now open for all UNA-USA members. Once I have the ins and outs of this complete I will report to our members how it may be advantageous to join.
UNA-GP’s newly formed Membership Committee has been meeting regularly with a mission of mobilizing the community in becoming more involved in the local Chapter. Membership support helps in bringing programming for the local community, its schools and University students. Some of the other objectives of the committee is to keep its members more connected to world issues through participation in Chapter events as well as get them involved in UNA-USA/UN programs and grow local support for the ideals and work of the UN in Philadelphia’s community.

Manisha Patel
mpatel@una-gp.org

Sometimes being late with the newsletter, has its benefits. One large shout out and congratulations to Board Member, Anastasia Shown on the delivery of her healthy baby boy, Desmond Ian Braxton!
2014 UPDATE:
In partnership with the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant and Multicultural Affairs, Philadelphia is pleased to announce the second annual P3 Soccer Tournament and festival. The preliminary rounds will kick off September 14, and the finals on September 21st 2014.

As a tribute to the United Nations International Day of Peace, celebrated every year on September 21st, co-ed soccer teams representing global cultures will come together to use the international language of soccer as a platform for peace, competition and community engagement.

This year’s festival will include live music, art, food and other cultural features that represent the city’s diverse communities.

For more information, check out the Facebook page- P3: Philadelphia Plays for Peace or the Vimeo video- P3 Final Version 2, password peace. For further questions, contact p3soccer4peace@gmail.com
The Philadelphia Global Water Initiative held its 7th Annual Conference at Drexel University. This year’s topic of discussion was Urban Water Solutions in the Developing World, specifically, how to develop and provide sustainable services and just policies for the poor, women, and children.

The stimulating and interactive discourse was led by experts in the field from across the globe. Professionals from organizations such as The World Bank, Women for Water Partnership, USAID, USEPA, and many other private and governmental agencies sought to address critical challenges that face the international community. These issues primarily revolve around accessibility to sanitary water and hygiene services in the poor urban and peri-urban areas.

The three featured panels focused on finance and economics for urban communities, technical solutions to serve growing populations, and leadership and management in the poorest cities. This interdisciplinary approach united professionals and students and facilitated the sharing of information and ideas in order to provide a framework for the future. For more information, please visit: http://www.pgwi.org/
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity/Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location/info</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Planting a (Fruit) Tree (Earth Day)</td>
<td>April 22nd</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>All Morning</td>
<td>Global Leadership Academy. Final activity of Youth Building Roots program 2013-2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNA-GP Board Meeting</td>
<td>April 26th</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>10:30 AM – Noon</td>
<td>Quaker Meeting House, Chestnut Hill. All members welcome to attend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Red Cross and Red Crescent Day</td>
<td>May 8th</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>5:30 – 8:00 PM</td>
<td>TBD. Working topic: Health Services for Children lost in Conflicts. Raising funds for UNICEF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNAUSA Annual Membership Meeting</td>
<td>June 7,8,9</td>
<td>Saturday – Monday</td>
<td>All day</td>
<td>TBD. In Washington D.C. See elsewhere in Newsletter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNA-GP Annual Membership Meeting</td>
<td>June 19th</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>6:00 – 8:00 PM</td>
<td>TBD. Please note that this meeting is on the eve of World Refugee Day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Garden Party</td>
<td>July 13th</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>4:00 – 9:00 PM</td>
<td>146 Pelham Rd. Our fundraising event and commemoration of World Day for International Justice (July 17th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNA-GP Board Meeting</td>
<td>Aug. 21st</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>5:30 – 7:00 PM</td>
<td>TBD. All members are welcome to attend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P3 Soccer Tournament</td>
<td>Sept. 21st</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>UPenn Adams Field. Soccer and family peace festival in honor of International Day of Peace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Diets, Our Planet; sustainability re food</td>
<td>Oct. 16th</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>6:00 – 8:00 PM</td>
<td>TBD. World Food Day. Kick-off of our Youth Building a discussion about Roots program 2014-2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Faiths and the United Nations</td>
<td>Oct. 24th</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>UN Day (69th Anniversary) A flurry of activities aiming at the faith based communities, to strategically embrace the work of the United Nations System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNA-GP Board Meeting</td>
<td>Nov. 15th</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>10 AM – Noon</td>
<td>TBD. All members welcome to attend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Celebrating the legacy of Eleanor Roosevelt</td>
<td>Dec. 10th</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>6:00 – 8:00 PM</td>
<td>UDHR Day. Topic and venue TBD</td>
</tr>
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BE INVOLVED!
JOIN US FOR THE 2014 ANNUAL MEETING

The UNA-USA Annual Meeting is more affordable than ever! Register now and take advantage of reduced registration fees.

Join United Nations supporters from across the U.S., June 8-10, at the National Education Association in Washington, DC for skills trainings, issue briefings, networking opportunities, and capacity-building. Each year, the meeting culminates with Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill. Last year, more than 120 meetings took place between UNA-USA members and their members of Congress discussing why they support the United Nations.

New this year:

- Does your Chapter have outstanding student volunteers? Students attend for Free!
- Do you want to have a direct impact on UN policy? Take part in a Post-2015 Development Agenda Consultation or a Universal Period Review Consultation.
- More breakout sessions! Chapter leaders can take advantage of sessions on partnerships, events, and resource development.
- And much, much more. View the draft agenda at www.unausa.org/annualmeeting.

You must be registered for the Annual Meeting to take part in these new activities, so register online today.

Have questions? Please contact Wesley Rogerson, UNA-USA Membership Assistant.
May 8th from 5:30-7:30 at
The College of Physicians of Philadelphia

World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day

“Victimizing Children. War crimes against the innocent. Enough already.”

Tentative Program:
- Welcome by Clara Barton
- Syria, CAR, Congo; children lost in conflict, a brief update. Christiaan Morssink
- War impedes polio eradication. Pavan Ganapathiraju
- What can WE do: The Shot at Life Campaign
- Help us raise funds for immunization efforts

Guest Performance

Farah Siraj
World Fusion Artist

Come and celebrate the principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Organization

Shot @Life
Philadelphia Global Water Initiative

UNAGP

The College of Physicians of Philadelphia
Birthplace of American Medicine™

Drexel University School of Public Health

Global PHILADELPHIA

Meet the World Here
Jeanine Cooper of UN-OCHA Discusses Sustainability at Villanova University
By: Caroline DiStefano
United Nations Association Student Advocate
Villanova University, Spring 2014

On Friday, April 11th, Jeanine Cooper of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs visited Villanova for a lecture on sustainability efforts in the African Union. Several students were in attendance, including political science majors, business school students, and members of the Villanova Commitment to Sustainability. One professor- former United Nations employee Shigehiro Suzuki- required that students attend the lecture in lieu of their regularly scheduled class, recognizing the importance of first-hand exposure in the field of global development. Mrs. Cooper touched upon several key topics, including disaster preparedness and response, access to water, and food security in the region. She not only discussed her role as representative for the African Union for UN-OCHA, but also the importance of cooperation between NGO’s, regional organizations, and government institutions in the effort for a sustainable, healthy, and disaster-prepared Africa. Several students took the opportunity to discuss pressing issues and current events with Mrs. Cooper even after the lecture’s conclusion. This speaker event was the second United Nations Student Alliance event on campus, and Villanova students look forward to furthering the United Nations’ presence on campus in the upcoming semester.

Pennsylvania
Celebrating 40 Years
1974—2014

SAVE THE DATE!
Tuesday May 6, 2014 5:30pm to 7:30pm
Pyramid Club, Philadelphia

Common Cause PA invites you to celebrate the work of four extraordinary individuals who are making a difference in their communities and building a better democracy in Pennsylvania. Please join us as:

Judy Wickes is presented with the Bob Edgar Public Service Achievement Award for her 40 years of civic engagement and community service in Philadelphia and beyond. As an activist entrepreneur, she used her business, White Dog Café, as a vehicle for social change, developing many educational programs that inspired engaged citizenship, while modeling responsible business practices.

Denny O’Brien is presented with the Champion of Good Government Award. The award is presented to individual who has led efforts to elevate the quality and integrity of government in Pennsylvania. O’Brien exemplified these qualities in his role as Speaker of the PA House of Representatives where he established the Speaker’s Commission to explore ways to make the House work better.

Amanda Holt is presented with the Bob Edgar Public Service Achievement Award for her ground-breaking work in challenging Pennsylvania’s electoral redistricting plan. Ms. Holt challenged the state’s redistricting maps in court, which for the first time, led the Supreme Court to overturn a redistricting plan and required the Commission to more closely adhere to constitutional standards.

John Baer is presented with the Media Award for his lifetime of excellence in reporting on public affairs, outstanding coverage of issues of openness, ethical conduct and accountability and in educating the public on the importance of these issues.

To register, please visit the CCPA website at:
www.commoncause.org/PA/40th
Send a check made payable to Common Cause PA, PD Box 11482, Harrisburg, PA 17108-9936
Tickets: $125, CCPA Member Tickets: $95
Meet Our Team

Eve Badana

Eve is a third-year international student at Drexel University, studying Political Science and Criminal Justice. She is a member of the D1 Varsity Soccer program and the Republic of Ireland Senior Women’s National Team. Eve is very excited to learn and make positive contributions to the UNA-GP.

Reed Power

Reed Power is currently a pre-junior studying International Area Studies at Drexel University. Having previously worked for the UNDP abroad, he looks forward to continuing his work with the United Nations here in Philadelphia.

Jason Haque

Jason is a senior Political Science major at Drexel University. Jason has participated in several Model United Nations Conferences in both High School and University. He is deeply invested in environmental issues, and looks forward to being part of the UNA of Greater Philadelphia.

To: all members of UNA-GP

Nominations for the Board and Committees.

The nominating committee of the UNA-GP board is accepting and reviewing nominations for new members to the 2014-2015 board, and would like to welcome any names (including your own) of members who can serve in that capacity for a two year period. The names and contact information should be sent to president@una-gp.org. The deadline for submissions is May 15, 2014, and elections will be held during the Annual Membership Meeting on June 19. Please forward your suggestions to info@una-gp.org.
You can help the United Nations Association!

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!

The UNA-GP April 2014 newsletter is a collaborative effort:
- Layout and design editor: Reed Power, Eve Badana and Jason Haque
- Board liaison: Ed Gracely
- President: Mary Day Kent
- Executive Director: Christiaan Morssink

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 and upcoming events, and ways to get involved, including joining and volunteering. In addition, we are on social media sites and send out our monthly newsletters. 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

http://www.facebook.com/UNAGP
http://www.twitter.com/UNAGP
http://www.una-gp.org/

mpatel@una-gp.org