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United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia   •   1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102   •   July 2014
Dear members and friends of the UNA-GP,

I am haunted by the phrase "When will there be good news?" * So, even as bleak and disastrous news surrounds us, I thought I would look for some encouragement for those who work to build international structures for peace. Hoping that nothing happens to negate these between writing this and publication, I offer four examples of international negotiations and institution-building at work:

As of the first week of July, the chemical weapons that almost provided the spark for a US intervention in Syria last September have been removed from Syria and the final shipment of some 600 tons is being destroyed at sea on a US Navy ship. This operation involved a UN resolution and direct cooperation of the US, Russia, Germany, Finland, Denmark, Italy, and the OPCW (the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons). Despite the ongoing destruction in Syria, one burden of horror has been lifted and (perhaps) a groundwork of collaboration has been laid that might help further peace negotiations to end the Syrian conflict. As Ahmet Uzumcu, head of the OPCW, said "Never before has an entire arsenal of a category of weapons of mass destruction been removed from a country experiencing a state of internal armed conflict."

Negotiations with Iran and the "PS plus 1" (the permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany) to resolve the threat of Iranian nuclear development and move to end EU and US economic sanctions against Iran have continued, in spite of hostility in both the US and Iran by each country's "hardliners". The original deadline was July 20, but an agreement was reached to continue negotiations rather than break off in failure. Secretary Kerry spoke of the value of creativity and diplomacy shown in the negotiations and the 6 month extension.

The UN made a report on the preliminary outcomes of the "Millennium Development Goals", the global challenges set by the UN General Assembly in 2000, calling for major achievements by 2015 in cutting poverty and improving conditions for the world's people. Cynics often say that international aid programs are a waste and that nothing ever changes: the Millennium Development goals are proof that a global mobilization can indeed make a measurable and significant difference. Child mortality has been cut by nearly one-half. The number of school age children with no school to attend has been reduced to 58 million from 70 million. The lives saved from malaria are over 3 million thanks to coordinated public health efforts. The number of people living in extreme poverty (less than $1.25 per day) has been cut by half. With some pockets of exception, in most developing countries the gender gap for primary education has been largely closed, with girls attaining access to schooling. As Secretary General Ban Ki Moon said, this is a groundbreaking example of international effort to end poverty.

A new example of constructive economic cooperation is the alternative to the World Bank created this month by the "BRICS" countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa). Joseph Stiglitz, Nobel Prize-winning economist, said this new bank represents an initiative to make capital available for the developing world and change the balance of financial power from the US-dominated World Bank. The BRICS countries hold 40% of the global population and 25% of the global economy, the opposite balance of the wealthy nations currently controlling the IMF and World Bank. The new bank is anticipated to have headquarters in Shanghai and to be oriented to loans for new energy and projects to address the impact of climate change.

This newsletter will also have links to good news in the form of future events coming up for Philly Peace Day and our fall programs. As always, it was also encouraging to see the wonderful community of UNA-GP friends and family at the Global Garden Party on July 13th.

Here’s to Peace and Hope!

Mary Day Kent,
President, UNA-GP

*When will there be good news? is the title of a novel by Kate Atkinson that has nothing to do with international diplomacy.
My political emotions are running high lately, fueled by a desire to see the manly men in politics learn to say things like, “I’m sorry, I messed up” or “let’s talk about it”, or even better, “Let me try to understand what you are saying”. Instead we see these manly men explaining why they have to kill civilians, why the others are to blame for shooting planes out of the sky, erasing whole neighborhoods, abducting children and raping systematically. Why it is important to be big and strong and feared. I am a simple man, and do not understand much of the manly political behavior on this planet. To me, our manly politicians, whether they arm the rebels in Afghanistan; bomb the villages in Vietnam, Iraq, Libya, Gaza; fuel ethnic hatred with weapon sales and training camps; use drone strikes because it is so much cheaper than using “special forces”; retake land through phony referendums; keep immigrants locked up and children in camps – to me they all engage in criminal behavior, whether with mortal consequences or by simply causing inhumane suffering. It pains me that the courts of justice, the institutions of the United Nations, and the overwhelming desire of most on this planet to live in peace and with respect for the rule law are ignored, and can be ignored by these manly men. We will witness for many more years, I am afraid, the impunity for (war) crimes, just because those manly men have weapons and other tools that make the application of justice a too deadly process. Worst, of course, is that all these manly men have no problem sleeping at night, wrapped in their own version of morality; to use Hannah Arendt’s label, the banality of evil is in plain view on the world’s stage; for all to see and for all to absorb.

An Observation:

On Friday, July 18th, I went to a demonstration to express my frustration with the “let’s use mortal force again” politics of Israel. As usual, when there is something happening that involves Israel, there was a counter-demonstration by the “Let’s defend Israel, no matter what” crowd. Sadly, the picture that ensued was pitiful. Two shouting groups, with bullhorns, kept apart by traffic and nobody listening to each other or having an exchange of opinions. For example, one billboard on the Israeli side that read, “There is no Palestine” needs to be urgently discussed and deconstructed. Historically nonsense, such a statement also carries a much wider denial of existence. If there is no Palestine, who are the Palestinians; do they actually exist? Do they have the right to exist? Do they have rights? Are they actually human? The deeper implications of “there is no Palestine” are intensely scary, reminding us of some other historical policies of denying humanity.

The United Nations was the midwife of the state of Israel, and that birth was painful and complicated. There is resentment till this day for that birth. So be it. I have always supported Israel in its defense against other nations and the wars that occurred in the sixties and seventies. But that does not imply that Israel can occupy neighbors’ land and create apartheid in perpetuity. Israel needs to be forced by its until-now blind allies of the US and the almost blind EU to make up its mind: be a neighbor of another state called Palestine or do what Putin did in the Crimea -- annex the whole caboodle and make all the inhabitants Israeli citizens. Palestine exists, and it includes Israel, whether one denies it or not.
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 are 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
Our annual Garden Party fundraiser took place on Sunday, July 13th; commemorating World Day for International Justice. UNA-GP Executive Director, Christiaan Morssink, hosted the fundraiser at his home in Northwest Philadelphia, where guests enjoyed food and refreshments.

We were joined by guest speaker Kay Chernush, photographer and Founder/Director of Artworks for Freedom, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to use the power of art in the fight against modern slavery and human trafficking. Chernush spoke of her experiences at home and abroad, talking first hand with survivors of and contributors to human trafficking; furthermore inspiring her to utilize her artistic talents for social justice. Chernush had some of her artwork on display at the party.

“We seek to transform public attitudes, inspire anti-trafficking action and give voice to survivors.”

The floor was then open to discussion over:

**How can we bring Artworks for Freedom to Philadelphia?**

- If you have any ideas on how to bring Artworks for Freedom to Philadelphia, please reach out to us here at the UNA-GP.
- If you would like to know more information about Artworks for Freedom please visit their website at: [www.artworksforfreedom.org](http://www.artworksforfreedom.org) or send an e-mail to: info@artworksforfreedom.org
Second Annual

P3: Philadelphia Plays for Peace
Tournament & Festival
September 14th and 21st, 2014

About Us:
Our project began in the winter of 2013. Christiaan Morssink, Executive Director of the United Nations Association of Philadelphia and James Parsons, UNAGP member and area soccer coach, discussed the possibility of organizing an event involving soccer, peace-making, and community engagement. After reaching out to NGOs, academic institutions, and government entities, a core group of partners was created, prepared to create a citywide soccer tournament. Our inaugural peace tournament was held on September 22, 2013, at Penn Park, on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania. The event commemorated the United Nations International Day of Peace. Check out the highlight video here: http://vimeo.com/87223843

Our Mission:
Soccer is widely recognized as a truly global game, adored by millions. Philadelphia is a vibrant city with a diverse mix of people captivated by “the beautiful game.” By highlighting the beauty of soccer and promoting the concepts of communication, teamwork, and sportsmanship, the UNA-GP brings you an event that serves to nurture the seeds of peace through healthy athletic competition. Six teams representing regions of the world will participate in a mini "World Cup" with concurrent family-friendly activities. Cross-cultural dialogue, community building, peace making, and fun are the goals, as we work toward a more harmonious coexistence that embodies Philadelphia’s famous moniker, “City of Brotherly Love.”
**P3 Update**

**P3: Philadelphia Plays for Peace**

**Tournament & Festival**

**Our Partners:**

Over the year, P3 has been fortunate to partner with an array of organizations dedicated to advancing soccer and contributing to the health and well being of our communities. Their support is greatly appreciated.

Office of Mayor Michael Nutter
MOIMA
Philadelphia Union
Palms Solutions
SEAMAAC
Congreso de Latinos
Peace Day Philly
Global Philadelphia Assoc.
Fairmount Soccer Assoc.
KurtisFilms
BG Sports Management
Penn Middle East Center

**Tournament & Festival:**

Teams representing regions of the world make up our tournament field. Regions include: North America, Latin America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. Players come from all ethnic and cultural backgrounds, with the common goal of celebrating soccer and community engagement. This year, we increase the scope of our project by hosting a cultural festival showcasing food, music, art, from all over the world, as well as public health education. In addition, the Philadelphia Union will replicate their PPL Park “fan experience” with inflatables, games, and prize giveaways onsite.

Our project relies on donations from generous organizations and individuals who support our mission of using soccer as a vehicle for improving community relationships, providing children and adults with a healthy competitive sporting outlet, and promoting peace. If you or your business would like to support us you can! Please consider making a monetary donation by check to “UNA-GP” memo line: “P3 Tournament.” In-kind gifts are greatly appreciated as well.

For more information, visit our Facebook page, P3: Philadelphia Plays for Peace, or contact p3soccer4peace@gmail.com.
Italian Soccer Showdown!

Philadelphia

August 2\textsuperscript{nd} at 1:00 PM
Lincoln Financial Field
Mayor’s Sky Box.

AUGUST 2\textsuperscript{ND}
LINCOLN FINANCIAL FIELD

INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONS CUP
2014

ROMA
A.S. ROMA
VS
INTER MILAN

Donate $10.00 or more between now and July 31 to the
Philadelphia Plays for Peace Tournament

With your donation you will become eligible to win two tickets to this
historic Italian soccer rivalry and see it from the Mayor’s skybox.
Minimum donation of $10. We need to receive your contact
information and donation in writing by July 31.

DONATE:  
www.una-gp.org

P3soccer4peace@gmail.com  info@una-gp.org

Join us as we unite the city through soccer!
Thank you for your support.
Join us for a community celebration of multiculturalism and soccer!

Commemorating the United Nations International Day of Peace on September 21st, the second annual Philadelphia Plays for Peace Tournament and Festival embraces cultural sport, art, music and food, and is fun for the whole family!

For more information visit our Facebook page P3: Philadelphia Plays for Peace, watch our highlights from last year: https://vimeo.com/phillyplays4peace, or contact p3soccer4peace@gmail.com

Additional Information
Edgely Park, Fairmont Park
Randolph Drive, Philadelphia PA.

Festival begins at 1pm; first semi-final kick off is at 1:30pm.

Ample parking is available

Bus Routes 32, 61 and 48 run from Center City to Edgely Field
Model UN

**United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia**

**Model UN Conference 2015**

We are excited to announce that this year’s letters have been written and sent out to teachers and high schools informing them of the Rule of Law Model UN 2015. As more funding is still being requested, members with suggestions are encouraged to step forward and share thoughts. We are recruiting volunteers and fellows to help out with the instruction in various high schools. Training for college student volunteers is scheduled in September and October.

Congratulations and best of luck to graduating team member, Minsoo Kim. Daniel Bu will remain in the leadership role for this Model UN.

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International Peace Day Concert 2014

**HARMONY FOR PEACE FOUNDATION**

One Voice ... One World

The Harmony for Peace Foundation will be having their Second Annual International Peace Day Concert on Saturday, September 20th, 2014 in Verizon Hall, at 7:00 pm, The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, Philadelphia.

Join us on the International Day of Peace and celebrate the collaboration of young local musicians alongside special guests, in the name of harmony and peace!

For more information please visit:
http://harmonyforpeace.org/content/international-peace-day-concert-2014
UN Day Event

UN Day marks the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter.

The UNA-GP will be organizing a breakfast meeting with the many faces of leadership here in Philadelphia on UN Day, October 24th, 2014.

The event will celebrate 70 years of United Nations, and bring to the attention of our current leaders the importance of having their support moving forward.

May members from all religions and churches come together this day and collectively give the council of the churches and the UN their support.

PGWI Update

As you may know, the UNA-GP continues to work closely with the Philadelphia Global Water Initiative (PGWI), which includes our active participation in their annual conference as well as assistance in their yearly high school education initiatives.

Please note that the tentative date for the 8th Annual PWGI conference in 2015, will be on Thursday, March 26th; tentative location, The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

Our friends at PWGI are looking to organize a Model UN on water management. Materials have been directed to PGWI and we are advising the student volunteers at that NGO about how to implement the UN on Water Management.

Please be aware that several people from PGWI will attempt to go to the World Water Forum in Korea!

The World Energy Council (WEC) and World Water Council (WWC) announce that they have joined forces to bring the issue of the water-energy nexus to the fore in the run up to the 7th World Water Forum, to be staged in Daegu, Korea from 12 to 17 April 2015.

UNA-GP will be working closely with PGWI to ensure that Philadelphia has a strong presence at the WEC in 2015.
UNA-USA Member,

Late last year, we answered the UN Secretary-General’s call to action to hold meetings for Americans to discuss the world they want in 2030. The results from the consultations provided intriguing insights into Americans’ priorities for the future — but we still need more input! To date, more than 2 million people around the world have gone to myworld2015.org and have chosen the top priorities they think the world needs to tackle by 2030. However, fewer than 40,000 Americans joined this global conversation.

As Americans who believe in a strong U.S. role within the UN system, we need to make sure our voice is heard in this historic public input process.

Whether your top issue is gender equality or public health, unless citizens around the world tell UN leaders and UN member states what matters most to them, key priorities could be left out of the new development agenda. That’s why we are partnering with WFUNA and United Nations Associations around the world to rally even more support for the post-2015 development agenda during the MY World Global Week of Action!

Help us ensure a strong American response to this global call to action by adding your say and spreading the word:

**Vote for the changes that would make the most difference in your world.**

Once you cast your vote, there is more you can do to get Americans involved. Here are three actions you can take:

1. [Share this toolkit with your Chapters, friends and partners to increase participation on MY World.](#)
2. [Sign up for the Thunderclap for Facebook and Twitter before May 8](#).
3. Help mobilize support offline by setting up voting booths at any of your events this week.

We all have a critical role to play in creating sustainable growth, promoting gender equality, and meeting virtually every other development goal. **Make sure your voice is heard.**

Thank you for taking action,

Chris Whatley
Executive Director, UNA-USA
# UNA-GP Activities

(all tentative) for 2014, other events are being planned and will be added case by case

<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><strong>UNA-GP Board Meeting</strong></td>
<td>Aug. 21(^{\text{st}})</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>5:30 – 7:00 PM</td>
<td>TBD. All members are welcome to attend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>P3 Soccer Tournament</strong></td>
<td>Sept. 21(^{\text{st}})</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>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Peace Day Events</strong></td>
<td>Sept. 21(^{\text{st}})</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>See: <a href="http://www.PeaceDayPhilly.org">www.PeaceDayPhilly.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Our Diets, Our Planet; sustainability re food</strong></td>
<td>Oct. 16(^{\text{th}})</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>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Our Faiths and the United Nations</strong></td>
<td>Oct. 24(^{\text{th}})</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>UN Day (69(^{\text{th}}) 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><strong>UNA-GP Board Meeting</strong></td>
<td>Nov. 15(^{\text{th}})</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>10 AM – Noon</td>
<td>TBD. All member welcome to attend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Celebrating the legacy of Eleanor Roosevelt</strong></td>
<td>Dec. 10(^{\text{th}})</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>6:00 – 8:00 PM</td>
<td>UDHR Day. Topic and venue TBD</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Jason’s UN Peacekeeping Blog

How can the world move towards lasting peace? At least a dynamic peace that takes into account space for necessary violence, where conflict runs contrary instead of being the norm. Working at the United Nations Association of Philadelphia in a year punctuated by so much violence, I think the solution lies in an expanded and a changed UN Peacekeeping force. A conversation that quite desperately requires a discussion on both the ideology of war and the gritty reality of the peacekeeping mandates, including the following which I will discuss in the coming weeks.

1. The role of peacekeepers in international affairs other than as occupying forces.
2. What are the implications of female peacekeepers in the culture of military peacekeeping?
3. The paradox of using military personnel in peacekeeping.
4. Cultural disharmony between peacekeepers and citizens.
5. Tradition of barrack mentality
6. The shortcomings of peacekeeping and the need for honest and open conversation.
7. Economics of peacekeeping: why it is cheaper than sending in national forces.
8. Setting up a standing peacekeeping force.

Lastly, a warning and a hope. The warning is that I am grappling with several huge consequential issues and while I will try my best to do the research I might severely be in the wrong here. Therein lies my hope that this discussion continues to grow and evolve, bringing in new voices to the discourse. So please, let us elevate the conversation. Let’s bring about new understanding of the problem and really come to terms with the issues of today.

Click here to access Jason’s blog and read more...
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 July 2014 newsletter is a collaborative effort:
• Layout and design editors: 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