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Dear members and friends of the United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia,

First of all, I think we want to celebrate this year’s Nobel Peace Prize winners, Malala Yousafzai and Kailash Satyarthi, appreciating this recognition and support given to a young heroine at the beginning of a life’s work, and an established leader with decades of uphill struggle behind him, both dedicated to the rights of children and young people. October is the month to celebrate the United Nations (UN Day, October 24th) and the Nobel Peace Prize is a wonderful complement honoring those who work daily in the vineyards of peace and justice.

October is also the month leading up to elections in the US (Tuesday, November 4th) and the UNA USA has developed a set of questions for members to pose to candidates either by letter or in person if they have an opportunity. Of the list, one of the most pertinent is our national commitment to pay our dues to the UN even as our expectations of UN assistance rise ever higher—whether it be fighting terrorism, resisting the Ebola virus, rebuilding Gaza, or peacekeeping in Mali. Right now, to our national embarrassment, we are behind on our payments by $800 million to the operating budget (out of $950 million unpaid) and $337 million to the peacekeeping budget (out of $2.6 billion unpaid). Since the US has approved all these budgets, we have no excuse for not paying and it is certainly mortifying for one of the richer countries of the world to undermine the UN in this way.

October is also a month of sessions of the UN’s many committees. The committee known as the First Committee is the committee on disarmament, literally the first one established and that is symbolic of the essential purpose of the UN: ending war. The negotiations for disarmament can seem an endless and sometimes hopeless process, but I want to share some thoughts on this process, taken from an editorial by Ray Acheson of the "Reaching Critical Will" project of WILPF (the Women’s International...
League for Peace and Freedom):

This responsibility [of disarmament] falls to all states, not just those armed with nuclear weapons. And it is relevant for all disarmament matters, not just nuclear disarmament. It is not only up to those that possess or use the weapons to seek and achieve change. It is up to all of us. And we all get a say in what is practical and feasible, because progressive change is a collective project.

In her opening remarks, Ms. Gottemoeller [President of the committee] mused that perhaps we should think of disarmament in terms of how creeks and streams connect to form rivers. “Over time, those mighty rivers are irreversible; they cut through massive and seemingly impenetrable stone on the way to their final destination.” In fact, this well describes the effect that states, civil society groups, and other actors can have when they work together to oppose the entrenched reticence of the handful of powerful states that doggedly perpetuate a belief that their weapons make them powerful. Our collective efforts on a variety of issues—from stopping the bombings of towns and cities, to the prohibition of nuclear weapons, to controlling the arms trade, to preventing the development of unacceptable new weapon technologies—will undoubtedly cut through the “seemingly impenetrable stone” of those who seek security through militarism and who construct power through the threat and exercise of armed violence.

It is a continual delight to work with the UNA-GP as part of this global and persistent community working for the varied aspects of peace. I hope to see many of you at the events coming up in the next few weeks!

Mary Day

Mary Day Kent, President, UNA-GP
From Christiaan’s Desk.

The Ebola crisis has become frontline news. That is insofar that the disease has been brought to, diagnosed, and handled in the American public health and health care system. Politicians in America are stirring up fears, mass media are fanning the fires, and our scientists and health service workers have a few moments of national attention to say: WE ARE SYSTEMATICALLY UNDERFUNDED. Sadly, pleas by Director General Chan of the W.H.O. and Secretary General Ban-Ki-Moon for adequate funding go ignored. Not even 20% of the funds needed have been made available to tackle the crisis in the real center of the outbreak in West Africa.

Although not a substitute for government-level funding and resources, private actions for help are slowly coming into focus. In Philadelphia, for example, I know of one activity, coordinated by Arcadia University and the local Sierra Leone Children’s Fund, to collect and ship supplies to Freetown as soon as possible. I assume that there are more activities. Yet there is no access to the media, no way of coordinating and speeding up awareness. I cannot help but compare the Ebola outbreak to an earthquake. After the earth shakes and thousands are killed or homeless, the public immediately understands the need to send help. The media emphasizes it. Charities reach out to their donors, saying "We are there. We can help". By comparison, does the public understand...
how critical funding to fight the Ebola epidemic is? Are any nonprofits vigorously seeking money to help on the ground? If they are, I don’t see it.

We at the UNA-GP are brainstorming about some events to re-direct the attention of the public, the boardroom occupiers and the city council. Our student workers are brainstorming. If you have any ideas, please step forward. Beyond that awareness, I believe it is essential for us in the city to reach out to our citizens who hail from Sierra Leone, Senegal, Guinea, or Liberia. I will reach out today to my contacts at Africom, PICC, the Welcoming Center, the Public Health and Medical professionals at USP, UPenn, Drexel, Temple and Jefferson, to create town hall meetings with those citizens, many of whom live in West Philadelphia. And anyone of you who knows how to reach the people who have the keys to the supply closets of the hospitals, pharmacies, health care industries and laboratories (yes, including dentistry) please inform the folks at Arcadia, communityservice@arcadia.edu or 215-572-4000.

Meanwhile, our program re Habitat III has been kicked off and we are preparing for our “consultation” meeting with clergy on UN Day. See the website of UNA-USA for details. On that same website you may find the announcement that UNA-USA and Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority have agreed to work together on bringing the global classroom program and philosophy to the schools in the nation. Hence, we have begun, at the local level, exploratory talks with the leadership of the three chapters in Greater Philadelphia. We have decided on using water and water stewardship as the vehicle for organizing this globalizing of our classroom experience. Much more to follow and please, stay tuned.

Don’t forget to vote on November 4th. And vote with the future of humanity in mind. Peace.
A few words from our Volunteer Coordinator

Manisha Patel

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

Global Water Alliance Update

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

Please note that the date for the 8th Annual Global Water Alliance conference in 2015, will be on Thursday, March 26th, as a joint service project in honor of Martin Luther King Day; tentative location, The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

March 26th. Save the date!

Our friends at GWA are looking to organize a Model UN on water management. Materials have been directed to GWA 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 GWA 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 GWA to ensure that Philadelphia has a strong presence at the WEC in 2015.
World Habitat Day 2014
Message of the UN-Habitat Executive Director Dr.
Joan Clos

Monday 6, October 2014

Voices from Slums

Every year on the first Monday of October we reflect on the state of our human settlements and what we want the cities of our future to look like.

This year, the United Nations has chosen to turn the spotlight on the people who live or have lived in informal settlements, listening to “Voices from Slums”.

The goal is to raise awareness of life conditions in some areas of the planet which are crowded, with inadequate housing, poor or no water and sanitation facilities and no security of tenure. There is rarely any public space in these areas and no allocation for streets, meaning no public transport and no access for emergency services.

As part of the Millennium Development Goals, the world pledged to improve the lives of 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020. By 2010 we had achieved this by more than 2 fold. However, with growing urbanisation, the number of people being born in or moving into these areas is also increasing and the overall number of people living in slums continues to rise. Estimates claim that there are already one billion people living in slums.

People in slums are also disproportionately affected by climate change, with houses often built precariously on slopes or unsuitable building space and with inadequate materials making them vulnerable to landslides, floods and earthquakes.

Great efforts are being made to improve many slums around the world and better the lives of those that live there. But slums are a manifestation of rapid unchecked urbanisation - a result of allowing our cities to expand without design or regulation and with disregard to their citizens. While continuing to upgrade the slums we have, we urgently need to focus our efforts on robust urban planning and the provision of safe, affordable housing that is appropriate and adequate for our citizens’ growing needs.

Through real stories it is possible to demonstrate to decision makers in the urban arena that slum upgrading programmes can achieve better life conditions for slum dwellers, and greater economic and social impacts.

In 2016, UN-Habitat will host the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, Habitat III, and this will set us on the path for a new urban agenda. But we cannot wait until then to stop the spread of slums. Our urban citizens have the right to adequate housing and basic services and we need to make sure that our cities and towns are planned appropriately to provide these.

Nearly one billion urban slum dwellers are counting on it. We should hear their voices.
GLOBAL WATER ALLIANCE* Celebrates WORLD TOILET DAY

Where: Moshulu 401 South Columbus Boulevard Philadelphia, PA 19106
When: Wednesday, November 19th Time: 6 P.M. – 9 P.M.

The United Nations General Assembly designated November 19th as World Toilet Day, urging changes in both behavior and policy on issues ranging from enhancing water management to ending open-air defecation. This is a day to raise awareness of the world’s sanitation and water crisis and to help us all to remember that several thousand children die each day from water and sanitation problems worldwide.

Please join Global Water Alliance and our partners as we celebrate World Toilet Day onboard the world’s oldest four masted ship, the Moshulu, located on Penn’s Landing on the Delaware River in historic Philadelphia. Enjoy live chamber jazz, cocktails, hors d’oeuvres and dinner as we celebrate World Toilet Day and raise awareness for global sanitation.

Tickets are $75 per person, $20 for students. UNA-GP is a sponsor of this event and is coordinating the participation of its members and friends. Members are invited to buy tickets at a discounted price of $50.00, paying on line by going to www.una-gp.org. Tickets may also be purchased by sending a check, payable to UNA-GP, to Treasurer UNA-GP, 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19102. Payments should be received by the 12th of November.

* Global Water Alliance formerly known as PGWI is a 501(c)(3) organization. Our mission is to increase global access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene services, by engaging the resources and expertise of the Philadelphia region and beyond.
Tweets of the Month

UN Peacekeeping
@UNPeacekeeping

Our thoughts are with the families and friends of the 2 peacekeepers from Ethiopia killed in attack in #Darfur pic.twitter.com/997RykrMWn

UN Human Rights
@UNrightswire

I am wearing a #purple tie to mark #SpiritDay for the victims of homophobic bullying - UN Rights Zeid pic.twitter.com/dHaizmQrPZ

World Food Programme
@WFP

Stitching fashion + food:@MichaelKors + #HalleBerry + @WFP school meals cnn.it/1wckLXJ @CNN #WatchHungerStop pic.twitter.com/nQ10MosrOb

Rotary International
@rotary

What Rotary is doing to feed the hungry wp.me/p23IKB-1eh

United Nations
@UN

.@WHO appeals for US$ 8.7m as part of an overall US$ 45.1m effort to repair and enhance #Gaza’s health care system goo.gl/iEy5D4
Our media have been relentless in whipping up fear for Ebola, after health care workers in Dallas botched the handling of the first Ebola patient in the USA. “We are unprepared!” they scream, and CDC and WHO “confessed” to botching the handling of the epidemic. Our politicians are now harassing health care officials, who have been for years underfunded and ignored.

Last week, Amy Gutmann, president of the University of Pennsylvania, had to calm her constituents and wrote a letter to the University community in which she said: “...We are fortunate at Penn to have one of the world’s most highly regarded medical health systems. ....Penn Medicine is well prepared to address the Ebola challenge. We are in regular contact with the CDC, ....the Pennsylvania Department of Health and we are part of a citywide preparedness task force led by the Health Commissioner. ....”

Indeed, when it comes to health care, Philadelphia is a powerhouse, a juggernaut of strength in the medical and pharmaceutical markets. We can handle Ebola if it would reach our city. But it is important that we bring that message of Amy Gutmann to the whole of Greater Philadelphia, and especially to our fellow citizens who hail from Liberia, Senegal and Sierra Leone and who live in anguish and fear for their loved ones in the motherland.

Moreover, I am writing because I believe that this medical powerhouse has an obligation to support the eradication effort here and in Africa, heeding the call for support from the U.S. State Department, the WHO and NGO’s like Medicins sans Frontieres. Philadelphia indeed can assist the thousands of health workers and other people already working tirelessly on the frontlines to halt the outbreak and stop the suffering of thousands.

Sick residents of Monrovia, Liberia, wait for medical care outside of “Island Clinic,” the city’s newly opened Ebola treatment center.
We are witnessing one of the most massive coordinated outbreak responses in our lifetime—what WHO Director General Margaret Chan has called “likely the greatest peacetime challenge that the United Nations and its agencies have ever faced”—and there has never been a more appropriate moment for the Philadelphia professional community to step up to the plate and honor the strong working relationship between the U.S. -that’s us- and the UN. The UN General Assembly and the Security Council—under leadership from our government—have created the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER). This is the right step for the UN, and the right platform for the U.S. to utilize as we respond to the outbreak.

President Obama defined containing the spread of the virus a national security priority. The United States has so far contributed $113 million to the UN response in West Africa. In addition 4,000 troops are sent who will set up 17 field hospitals, each capable of holding 100 beds. UNMEER has deployed teams to three affected nations. Additionally, the WHO has constructed three Ebola treatment centers in Guinea, 12 in Liberia and 15 in Sierra Leone - (50 are needed). Moreover, WHO has deployed more than 700 experts to West Africa since the beginning of the outbreak and helped set up “training academies” for local health workers. While much more is needed, as WHO readily acknowledges, this is a solid foundation on which all partners can converge and coordinate.

Ebola may be in the U.S., but it is a global health threat, and it requires a global solution. United Nations Day is this coming Friday, October 24, a day that commemorates the fundamental need to work together. We now shift from war to pandemics and the United Nations will stop this Ebola, this existentialist threat; and we, as members of the UN family, need to and can join that effort.

Philadelphia: we are a powerhouse! Let’s put that power to good use: work with UNMEER: Show our colors; show our strength; show our global empathy!

Philadelphians from a variety of professional and cultural backgrounds have gotten involved in the Ebola Crisis and helped to save lives. So can you!

Fobeda Daboh, an original native of Sierra Leone, is the executive director of HEAL Initiative, through which he collects donations and medical supplies to send back to his home country. See what you can do to help at:

http://www.phillytrib.com/metros/article_ef572a9d-7631-5ebc-9279-83e7e70fa4db.html#.VD6O-ZTVc5A.gmail

http://bulletin.arcadia.edu/2014/10/arcadia-holding-drives-to-collect-medical-supplies-for-ebola-relief/
Water is essential to many aspects of human health, development and wellbeing. The United Nations has long been addressing the crucial role water plays in all aspects of societal, industrial, and agricultural development. As of July 2010, the United Nations General Assembly has recognized the human right to water and sanitation. The assembly has recognized that it is the right of every individual to be able to access sufficient water that is safe, affordable, and accessible.

In collaboration with Philadelphia Global Water Initiative (PGWI), Fairmont Water Works, and Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, UNA-GP is hard at work in preparation for our conference on Water Stewardship, which will take place on Monday, January 19, 2015, in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr.’s Day of Service. The focus of this year’s conference is developing a universal template for hygiene in schools, with particular focus on women and girls.

High school students will develop civic awareness and informed perspectives on education and sanitation issues affecting nations around the world, including the United States. Through training seminars before the conference similar to the United Nations’ Global Classrooms, students will reinforce their knowledge and skills to engage in responsible decision-making on complex international issues.

At the conference, students will be assigned to represent schools in different regions around the world. Students will study the various challenges of each school and represent their concerns to the rest of the assembly. By analyzing different situations, students will develop a baseline template for school hygiene infrastructure and organization, focusing on the needs of girls that can be used in a variety of settings worldwide. The president of H2O for Life will be the keynote speaker.

Mary Rodgers and Nathalie Figueroa discussing how to organize the H2O for Life connection for our MUN on Water Stewardship.
UN Day 2014: The Breakfast Gathering of Faiths

On Friday, October 24, still basking in the glow from Malala Yousafzai visit to Philadelphia a few days earlier, UNA-GP held a breakfast meeting with local religious leaders in the ornate Conversation Room of City Hall. The breakfast was sponsored by the UN Foundation and the local chapters of the sorority Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA).

With good food provided by the caterer Men at Work, and with copious attention and assistance from our student interns, energetic discussions were started and networking ensued. Thirty-five leaders, representing most of the world’s religions, including the humanists, discussed matters related to the new Sustainable Development Goals.

Before the discussion got underway, our member Lynn Mather set the tone with the Prelude from JS Bach Suite in G, BWV 1007 for Violoncello. Lucille Pilling, a long time collaborator on matters of faith, the UN and women’s issues, provided the context for the discussion in her short keynote. Mary Day Kent elaborated the links with William Penn in her welcoming remarks and AKA members Lorina Marshall and Robyn Jones discussed the mandate for local engagement that follows from the cooperative agreement between the national AKA and the UNA-USA.

Marietta Tanner called the meeting to order. We had three topics to cover: a "consultancy" about where to emphasize what and why among the 17 tentative Sustainable Development Goals, how to collaborate and advocate in the coming year in regards to the 70th anniversary of the United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia • 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102 • October 2014
UN Day 2014: The Breakfast Gathering of Faiths

Nations, and how we at the UNA-GP can help faith leaders in using the United Nations Calendar and the United Nations’ messages of hope, peace, poverty and hunger abatement, health improvement, and overall a more global empathy for human dignity and respectfulness.

“The world is what we make of it. Let’s make it a place we would be proud to call home.”

A report of the discussion will be distributed to the participants and forwarded to the UN Foundation in Wash DC. In our November issue we will report more on this content part.

All the relevant materials about this breakfast meeting, including the invitation letters, can be found on our website under its link in the column “recent events”.

The breakfast meeting was organized by Marietta Tanner, and Cynthia Hyler, with input from Mary Day Kent and Manisha Patel. Marietta Tanner especially worked hard on this breakfast, the plans for it being discussed since January. Carol Jenkins persuaded the Mayor to make the Conversation Room available for free.

A thank you also to Zachary, Shonda, Steven, Julia, Rae, Meron, and Colin. It was an very early rise for several of them.

“It was interesting that almost everybody had differing opinions about which topic was the most important. These opinions were often based on their professions and experiences.”

Mary Day on William Penn
On October 6th, UNA-GP members and volunteers convened for light refreshments and a screening of the documentary *Urbanized* at the Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center. There was a discussion on the Habitat III United Nations conference in 2016 and its agenda, “Local Innovations: Transforming the Next Global Urban Agenda” and the Habitat III subcommittee. The Habitat III committee is looking forward to making noise regarding urban planning, and becoming more involved in relevant issues as the academic year progresses.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity/Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location/info</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNA-GP Board Meeting</td>
<td>Nov 15</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>10 AM – Noon</td>
<td>Friends Center, 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102. All members are welcome to attend</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global Water Alliance’s World Toilet Day Event</td>
<td>Nov. 19th</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>6:00 - 9:00 PM</td>
<td>Enjoy live chamber music, jazz, cocktails, hors d’oeuvres, and dinner. See page 8 for more information Moshulu— 401 South Columbus Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA 19106</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Rights and Press Freedom: Global and Domestic Challenges, Celebrating the Legacy of Eleanor Roosevelt</td>
<td>December 10th</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>6:00 - 8:30 PM</td>
<td>Human Rights Day. Keynote Speaker Courtney Radsch, Advocacy Director, Committee to Protect Journalists. Responder panel of local journalists. Location: Ethical Society of Philadelphia, 1906 Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia PA 19103</td>
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<td>Alternative Model UN Conference on Water Stewardship Topic: Sanitation and Hygiene in Schools</td>
<td>January 19th, MLK Day</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>Creating a water module about sanitation in schools from a girl’s perspective Schools have been approached. Venue: University of Pennsylvania</td>
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<td>Tentative: Workshop Youth Building Roots Program</td>
<td>January 19th, MLK Day</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>AM Hours</td>
<td>Arame Niang will present Youth Building Roots Program to engage students in service learning regarding urban agriculture Tentative Venue: Girard College</td>
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<tr>
<td>High School Conference on Rule of Law Topic: Incarceration Policies and Practices</td>
<td>February 28th</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>This third MUN RoL will focus on incarceration policies. Tentative venue: University of Pennsylvania</td>
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