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Dear Members and friends of the United Nations Association,

Waiting for the wave of family members and turkey to arrive, I realize that the finale of the year is not far off. December brings our annual day to celebrate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, this year on the true day of December 10th. Details and promotion for this are included in this newsletter. Our theme this year is the right to free speech in the press and we are honored to have with us the advocacy director of the Committee to Protect Journalists, Courtney Radsch from their office in Washington, DC. We will combine this international overview with some local insights from 2 staff from the Philadelphia Inquirer. Please see the event page for the full program. As I think of things to be thankful for at Thanksgiving, journalists and their courage to bring us the full story even at personal risk are high on my list.

I am also profoundly grateful for the determination of our Secretary of State John Kerry and his counterparts from the "P5 plus 1" great powers negotiating with Iran, seeking an outcome that will safeguard all of us from further nuclear proliferation while opening the way to restoring normal diplomatic and trade relations with this important country. It was a great relief on Monday, Nov. 24 to hear that negotiations will be extended for another three months at least. Although much of the content of negotiations is very technical to do with the details of nuclear power and nuclear weapons, the underlying meaning has been identified by many experts following the process as one of those moments that are a "hinge of history": if diplomacy is allowed to fail
the consequence will be an unpredictable cascade of harm in the Middle East and elsewhere. If you happen to be communicating with any of our members of Congress in the next few days, please tell them that diplomacy with Iran is the way to go and needs to be supported. (Our two Senators from PA have voted for punitive sanctions on Iran instead of supporting negotiations, as has one of the two Senators from NJ). If you want more details on Iran negotiations, the Friends Committee on National Legislation has a great resource section on their website as does our colleague organization the Project for Nuclear Awareness.

Our calendar for 2015 is filling up with events -- please see our website or the listings and remember that not only can you attend any of these, you can work on them! And if you don’t see the event that you think Philadelphia or the world needs, you could be the one to organize the event you think we should have!

Best wishes for the holidays ahead and looking forward to seeing many of you on Dec. 10th,

Mary Day

Mary Day Kent, President, UNA-GP

Senator Robert “Bob” Casey (D-PA) voted in favor of sanctions against Iran
From Christiaan’s Desk.

I had the honor of being the keynote speaker for the Global Temple Conference on November 12. Global Temple is an event organized by Temple University in Philadelphia, which "highlights work by students, faculty, and staff whose scholarship and work extends around the world" and provides a "venue to illuminate and celebrate the diversity of Temple’s interests and involvement in the international community." The 2014 event was the 9th annual Global Temple gathering. Instead of my usual ramblings, I offer below a shortened version of the talk I gave to that session.

Higher Education is undergoing a transformation on a spectacular scale, an academic revolution worldwide, with national borders becoming but an earmark. Global Temple is to be understood in that larger context of the shifts in the knowledge reproduction market and you are to be applauded for taking positive, constructive steps to claim and expand your share in that market.

When I studied in Amsterdam in the sixties, studying abroad was a necessity for the students who came from foreign lands where hardly any university existed or was big enough to accommodate local demand. And when you look at the history of the independence movements in the 20th century, I claim that in almost all cases, studying abroad had a direct bearing on the emergence of the “new” nations. Gandhi, Ho Chi Min, Nkrumah, Nyerere, Senghor, all these fathers of their nations had studied abroad.

Julius Nyerere, first President of Tanzania
political embargo because UNESCO voted in 2011 to recognize the Palestinian state as a member.

UNESCO strives to build networks among nations that enable moral and scientific solidarity, by:

**Mobilizing for education**: so that every child, boy or girl, has access to quality education as a fundamental human right and as a prerequisite for human development.

**Building intercultural understanding**: through protection of heritage and support for cultural diversity

**Pursuing scientific cooperation**

**Protecting freedom of expression**, especially press freedom: an essential condition for democracy, development and human dignity.

When I was your age, I knew of UNESCO as the provider of very interesting cultural exchange programs. In Amsterdam I saw the Russian Red Army Choir, the Senegalese Ballet and the Argentinian Tango spectacle, all made possible by UNESCO. In Suriname, we were visited by Dancers from Brazil, actors from South Africa and sitar players from India, all made possible by UNESCO.

More importantly, in Suriname I witnessed an educational, regional conference of UNESCO, where the very high literacy rate of Suriname was applauded as well as the extent of its tertiary level of education, including nursing, oral health, and technical colleges, and the national university. Indeed, UNESCO’s major structural contributions are in the realm of education, especially higher education.
I am mentioning UNESCO so much because this agency provides the overarching policy sounding board for understanding the relevancy of Global Temple and for that matter, all programs of studying abroad. Next to organizing fora on accreditation on an international scale, UNESCO is the place where treaties around higher education, research and dissemination of findings are developed and implemented, thus providing a reference for hosting and sending institutions in the member states.

UNESCO also developed the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) to facilitate comparisons of education statistics and indicators across countries on the basis of uniform and internationally agreed definitions. It publishes the International Handbook of Universities and it maintains the WHED Portal of the International Association of Universities.

UNESCO maintains a neat database of mobile students, a great tool for policy makers at governments, and at universities. It tells us, for example, that in 2012, 4 million students worldwide studied abroad, 1.8% of all enrollments. Of those 4 million 700,000 students came from China, followed by India at 200,000 and Korea with 125,000. About 60,000 American students studied abroad, a relative small portion of the total global outbound stream. However, in terms of hosting, the USA has the largest number of students, 740,482, or 18% of the global total, followed by the UK at 11% and France at 7%. The USA hosts students from 140 some countries. We host even 17 students from North Korea.

The market for knowledge exchange and innovation is expanding and is global. The Medieval ideal of the university as a universal knowledge center is returning, it seems. We are entering a new phase in tertiary learning, a planetary phase, where we use new technology for worldwide, almost instant communication, where storage of data is virtual and transportable with just a fraction of costs and where global institutions supplant the national professional associations that have become the hallmark of the late 20th century.
A Few Words From Our Executive Director

century labor markets. For example we now have the World Heart Federation, the International Association for the Study of Obesity, the World Water Forum, and we have the World Cancer Research Society, among many others. Melanoma research for example is coordinated between the USA, Australia, Israel and South Africa as the main contributors.

Academia also knows fierce competition and need to succeed for the operators in this new planetary market with growing demand and many moral consequences. Each operator will need to find a niche and make a “sellable product”. And make money. In the Netherlands, at least seven universities have degree programs that are completely taught in English, the Queen’s English I believe, but nevertheless English. Dutch students have to adjust. All universities, governmental agencies, NGOs, and most businesses in the Netherlands have their websites in English. It is a no-brainer to do so if you want to stay competitive.

And as you sit here, all of you have passports and most of you have travelled overseas for a conference, a congress, a teaching post, a research assignment, or a negotiation. That what once was exceptional is now avant-garde, ahead of the curve, the first of many, whatever we want to call it, but Global Education and Research will have to be interwoven into the menu of activities at any university, however small or specialized.

Where does that leave you, as the individual student, the individual researcher? You are to embrace the idea of a cosmopolitan mindset, a willingness to see all of humanity - all of planet earth- as your reference, your familial others. You will not experience culture-shock anymore, as you are already well aware of the diversity of the human interactions and you have shed your ethnocentrism. You will be shocked by the human condition in many parts of the world, be appalled by the politicians who deny the facts from science and you will be morally driven to use scientific reasoning to bring justice to all parts of the world, bring equity into the lived experience of the many and overall improve the quality of life for the next generations. And as you go through the world, be aware of your roots, your own otherness. So, as you pursue that living, abide by a few fundamentals:

a. DO THE RIGHT THING
b. Have EMPATHY for the other
c. DIGNIFY the other and thereby yourself

World Water Forum 2012
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

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.
Celebrating Celebrities or Their Causes?

Pondering
By Andro Mathewson

Malala Yousafzai received the Nobel Peace Prize just a few weeks ago, together with Kailash Satyarthi, for their “struggle against the suppression of children and young people and for the right of all children to education.” This decision has been hailed as a huge step in the recognition of people such as Malala who have fought and continue to fight for children’s and women’s rights worldwide. Furthermore the fact that a seventeen year old was awarded the world’s most prestigious award is hoped to lead to a larger involvement from youth in such issues worldwide. This joint award has also been used by the Nobel organization and the United Nations as a means for promoting South Asian peace, especially between Pakistan and India.

However, this award for Malala also creates a feeling of unease. I am wondering if maybe too much attention is given to persons and their name recognition, rather than to the actual social struggle for, in this case, gender equality and access to education for all girls and women. Are we buying into the celebrity cult and culture? For example, many celebrities and famous actors have become “goodwill” ambassadors for the United Nations and the various branches such as UNICEF, UNESCO, UNHCR. These individuals’ visits to affected areas, camps or schools do raise press coverage about the issue at hand, but they often fail in creating awareness in the capitals of the world. I am afraid they succeed more in raising awareness about themselves than actually about the issue or the difficult actions necessary to solve their “cause” problem. Yes, these people do promote education, the Millennium Development Goals, equality, human rights and many more other issues, but the entire operation of such goodwill ambassadors seems more to highlight the name of the celebrity and not the actual cause they are representing.

Let’s use Malala as an example. Malala Yousafzai is a Pakistani teenager, who after being shot in the head in 2012, survived and became an advocate for education opportunities and women’s rights worldwide. Now, there is an
Celebrating Celebrities or Their Causes?

Malala Yousafzai’s official Malala day (14th of July). She wrote a book under the title “I am Malala”, she spoke at the United Nations headquarters in New York City, participates at numerous conferences worldwide and has just received the world’s most prestigious prize – the Nobel Peace Prize. Her story has lately been everywhere, the news, print, television and, of course, all over the Internet. She acts as a collective image for all girls in her previous position - living with sexism and a lack of education. Yet one comes to realize that the entirety of the media’s focus is on Malala as a person - how she was shot, where she went, her book, her speeches - and not on what she is actually trying to raise awareness about - the issues of gender inequality, abuse of children and women and the lack to educational opportunities. Furthermore the term to raise awareness has of late become very unclear. In the simplest sense, it simply means to educate people about a topic or issue and attempt to incite them to take action to solve that issue. Yet the second part of its purpose is becoming more and more lost between the thousands of articles, videos and pictures about the actual issue and the people trying to raise that so-called awareness. So again we return to the question: are we putting too much emphasis on the faces society has chosen to represent the particular issue and forgetting to try and actually solve the problem?

Many Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) suffer due to this overemphasis on the person, not the cause or its victims. For instance consider the Acid Survivors Foundation, an NGO based mainly in Bangladesh and Uganda, which offers aid to survivors of acid throwing attacks. Acid throwing is a form of violent assault, in which an acidic substance, most commonly sulfuric and nitric acid, is thrown upon the victim in an attempt to maim, torture or kill the victim. The main issue regarding acid throwing is the long-term social and physiological it has
on the victim. Acid throwing victims frequently have deformed faces due to the acid burns. The attacks often render the victims handicapped, increase stress levels, increase the chance of depression and limit the persons’ possibilities of future work and social interactions, including marriage. NGOs play a huge role in prevention and treatment. The main path of prevention focuses on stricter regulations regarding acid sales and first aid education. In Suriname, for example, the sale of pure acid has been forbidden since the late seventies, in an effort to stop mutilations. Another way to limit such attacks is working with governments to increase the severity of anti acid attack legislation. For instance, in 2002 Bangladesh instituted the death penalty for acid attacks, which is seen as the main reason for a drop in the frequency of attacks this past decade. Saving Face is a documentary about such victims, and yet despite its commercial success in the western world it has failed to greatly reduce acid throwing attacks. It did succeed in raising awareness about the issue, mainly through live interviews with victims and the fact that it won an Academy Award, yet no discernible drop in acid attacks occurred. So again, here the issue arises regarding celebrities and ways of teaching people about social issues, i.e. the attempt to raise awareness. Too often all attention is put on the person and not on their actual cause.

Let’s hope that Malala will stay the course and stay with her cause. Join her cause for our own daughters and sisters, and for all her unnamed global siblings who suffer unnecessarily. What good does it do that our national governments have signed that Universal Declaration of Human Rights and then do nothing? Sadly, we still need to fight for their, our, rights.

“I don’t want to be remembered as the girl who was shot. I want to be remembered as the girl who stood up.”
- Malala Yousafzai
In June 2009, Iranians protested against President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s allegedly-rigged election. The protest resulted in a violent shutdown movement by the government, targeting opposition leaders, protesters and journalists. Maziar Bahari was one of the many victims to be arrested. As a journalist, he was accused as a spy, and held and tortured in Evin, a notorious prison for political prisoners, for 118 days. After his release, Bahari wrote about his imprisonment in 'They Came For Me: A family story of Love, Captivity, and Survival', which is the basis for the newly released movie, *Rosewater*. Only one example of many, *Rosewater* is raising questions for journalist protection over the world.

The number of arrested journalists has steadily increased since 2000, when the number was at 81. Countries with 10+ journalists arrested include China(32), Eritrea(22), Iran(35), Syria(12), Turkey(40), and Vietnam(18). A number of these countries are those with limited freedom of the press. 77 journalists have been killed in Syria since 2011, brave men and women who were primarily reporting on the war, and ISIS (Islamic State in Iraq and Syria).

Effective journalism is a driver that propels democracy. Information is power in today’s world. Journalists provide the people with information. Lack of information leads to loss of power. The restriction on journalism may seem as foreign a topic as it gets. However, many ‘free-press’ countries do not always guarantee journalist protection as well. The U.S had 1 journalist arrested last year but this year’s statistics will likely have a huge increase with the Ferguson Protests alone resulting in 11 journalists being arrested.

People want to hear the truth. Journalists want to tell the truth. However, when faced with a brick wall, a journalist must choose between backing off or facing hard consequences. Without the proper protection, journalism is at risk, one word at a time.
Our Consultation Sessions Regarding New Sustainable Development Goals
By Julia Scarlett

On UN Day, October 24, members of UNA-GP and the sorority Alpha Kappa Alpha met with local faith leaders to discuss which issues should be prioritized in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for the period 2015-2030. Education, healthcare, gender equity, energy, climate change, trust in government, and political freedoms were amongst the topics for discussion. General consensus fell on a few goals that were thought to be most pressing. Education, climate change, healthcare access, and gender equity were the four top goals highlighted by these discussions.

A week later, twelve students with graduate level knowledge of global health issues were consulted as well. They felt passionately that good education for all should be a top priority, particularly tertiary education. The students argued that high schools cannot and should not be the endpoint for learning, because the lack of universities creates a bottleneck that hampers efforts for sustainable development.

Education was also a main topic of discussion at the aforementioned UN day breakfast meeting. One leader felt that education is an important tool to use going forth in society. Given projected population growth building human capital through education is a way to access “untapped resources.”

“Lynn Mather, setting the tone

Guests and participants at the breakfast

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

Lynn Mather, setting the tone
The more educated people are the better we can discuss development goals and problems.

Other important issues discussed were climate change, healthcare, and gender equity. At the breakfast meeting it was argued that climate change is a problem that overlays many of the other development goals, given that its effects impact all and tend to disproportionately affect women and poorer populations. Access to healthcare was another topic that was discussed as very interconnected to other issues. One leader, a nurse by training, suggested that health encompasses all of the other UN initiatives. She argued that health represents your whole wellbeing, which is the goal of the other initiatives as well. Lastly, gender equality and empowering women was heavily discussed. One of the attendees, a political science professor, argued that we need to empower women and focus equity efforts within the political and policy realms. She pointed out that with a more politically active female population there would be a greater emphasis on initiatives as set out in the tentative Sustainable Development Goals.

Everyone who was consulted agreed on the importance and urgency of creating greater awareness about the Sustainable Development Goals. It was suggested that universities work to incorporate the goals into their curriculums and that NGOs work towards informing professionals and citizens. Community workshops open to all local residents were suggested as a high priority. In addition, and most relevant, the goals should be made more in tune with all members of society and capture the essential aspects in simple terms. The items included in the SDGs should be accessible goals that are connected to people’s daily lives.

"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.”
We are happy to announce that the preparations for the alternative Model United Nations (MUN) Conference on Water Stewardship are underway. Through the conference, we will address Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) in schools and promote human rights and environmental justice. The event is designed as a Service-Learning program that will culminate with the MUN Conference. UNA-GP volunteers have prepared discussions that will be held at eight Philadelphia high schools this month. This preparatory phase is part of the effort to bring the Global Classrooms concept to Philadelphia.

At the conference, students will represent NGOs from different regions around the world and design a universal template for WASH in schools, particularly focusing on girls and women’s needs. Additionally, we hope students will continue their involvement with WASH projects by developing H2OforLife chapters. We would also like to thank our keynote speaker, Patty Hall, Founder of H2OforLife, for joining us in motivating educators and students to become global citizens.

The MUN on Water Stewardship will be held in collaboration with the Global Water Alliance (GWA, formerly Philadelphia Global Water Initiative), Fairmount Water Works, and the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated Omega Omega, Rho Theta Omega and Phi Beta Omega Chapters. It will convene on Monday, January 19, 2015, in celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Day of Service at the University of Pennsylvania. See our flyer on the next page for more details!
Topics to be discussed:

• The role of water in development
• The use of sustainable technology
• Current sanitation and water issues
• School facilities and gender differences

Create a universal template for school hygiene using cases from

7 Regions

Africa, Asia, Central and South America, Oceanic, North America, Eastern Europe

Like us on Facebook.com/PhillyWMUN
Human Rights and Press Freedom: Global and Domestic Challenges

What:

Celebrate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Learn about the many threats, global & domestic, to journalists trying to report on matters that impact human rights

Offer ideas on how journalists can be better protected to carry out their jobs

*Program is free of charge
*Program includes food and beverages

#PressFreedomPHL

Program:

Keynote Speaker: Courtney Radsch
Advocacy Director, Committee to Protect Journalists

Responder panel of local journalists:

Michael Matza
Staff Writer and former foreign correspondent
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Signe Wilkinson
Editorial Cartoonist
The Philadelphia Daily News and The Philadelphia Inquirer

Peter Chawaga
Panel Moderator
Editor for the Emerging International Journalists Program
The Global Philadelphia Association

When: Wednesday
December 10, 2014
6PM to 8:30PM

Where:

Ethical Society of Philadelphia
1906 Rittenhouse Square
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Sponsored by
The United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia
una-gp.org

Cosponsored by The Ethical Society of Philadelphia

Cosponsored by The Global Philadelphia Association
www.globalphiladelphia.org
# UNA-GP Upcoming Events

*(all tentative) for 2014/2015, 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>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<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>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Women’s Day: Global Migrant Rights and Justice</td>
<td>March 4th</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Celebration of local and global initiatives advocating for the rights of migrant women and their families. Speakers explore impact of immigration policies on women and children. Focus Book: <em>Orphan Train</em> by Christina Baker Kline. Location: International House, South American Room, 3701 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia PA 19104</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 August 2014 newsletter is a collaborative effort:
• Layout and design editor: Carolyn Curry
• 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

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mpatel@una-gp.org