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Dear members and friends of the UNA-GP,

Of course we would always be grateful if all of our friends joined us and became members! I am writing from far away (Colombia), but feel encouraged by the daily evidence of the activity of our hardworking association. I hope that many of us will take advantage of the February 20th Members’ Day at the UN Headquarters in New York City, always an inspiring visit and a great chance to connect with the resources and network the national UNA offers.

I am particularly struck by the potential for negotiated peace settlements here in Colombia, because there is a real possibility that there may be a negotiated settlement to a civil conflict of more than 4 decades. The talks occur after years of harm done on both sides and many concerns and hesitations on the part of citizens and government negotiators. The peace process has taken almost 2 years and has called for political courage from negotiators, the support of the UN, and the governments of Cuba and Norway. We watched the State of the Union address this week (the President’s Spanish was excellent!) and I remain hopeful for political courage in our government as well as we move to reinstall normal diplomatic relations with Cuba and Iran.

Looking forward to hearing good reports on the many events coming up,

Mary Day

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

2015 has come roaring in with tumultuous cabal. Murder based on religious grounds, unprecedented signs of global solidarity with the work of journalists; re-instated capital punishments in Indonesia, mass murders in Nigeria, threats of a war of cultures, and new military activity in the Ukraine instead of more intense diplomacy. Talks with Iran are still ongoing, and we are hopeful, even while our senators seem hell-bent on more squeezes. The erosion of the Russian economy, after just getting used to some free market culture, is a result of the political maneuvers of the west vis-à-vis the power games of “Tsar Putin the First,” and may unleash many unintended consequences. Another terrible development is the Euro Zone’s obsession with austerity, which has brought unbelievably high youth unemployment in the southern member states. Worry, worry, worry.
Meanwhile, there is hope for some kind of peace deal in Colombia, and it seems that the tide regarding Ebola is turning for the better. Our policy towards Cuba has changed and that has repercussions way beyond our access to more beaches, cigars and rum. The work of the OAS, the PAHO, the Inter-American Development Bank and many other international organizations can hopefully become much better streamlined and coordinated, if the talks in Havana are successful.

Meanwhile, all eyes in the UN are on the drawing of the curtain for the UNMDGs, and while those goals may not have been reached in full, it has unleashed a global apparatus in academia, the NGO world, as well as the commercial sector; that apparatus has been unprecedented in scope and promise. To find an equivalent international energy, the years of the Marshall Plans come to mind. This all bodes well for the new program of the UN, the Sustainable Development Goals for 2015-2030. The open dialogue with thousands of NGOs and other stakeholders throughout the world has produced a working document that is embraceable and doable; inviting all people of good will to participate in many of the sub programs that flow from the 17 SDG.

I look forward to a really busy and energetic year. Let’s get to work.
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.

On page 17 you will find the flyer for the 8th Annual Global Water Alliance conference in 2015, taking place on Thursday, March 26th, on the topic of Best Practices in WASH, at the The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

We, along with our friends at GWA and AKA, organized a Model UN on Water Management on MLK Day (see page 12). Students have been asked to make posters for this GWA conference, so that we can show how our young people are becoming engaged in water stewardship. Water crises are considered major global risks to humanity by the WEF.

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) have announced 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 WWF in 2015.
International Women’s Day: Save the Date

International Women’s Day 2015: Global Migrant Rights & Justice

Join us for performances, refreshments and discussion celebrating local and global initiatives advocating for the rights of migrant women and their families. Speakers will explore the intersection of immigrant rights, women’s rights & children’s rights and the impact of immigration policies and enforcement in the U.S. and abroad.

March 4th 6:00-8:00
International House, 3701 Chestnut St. South America Room

This is a One Book, One Philadelphia community program and encourages reading and discussion around a single book. This year’s selection, Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline, explores children’s courage & adaptability and the power of family.

So far this event is co-sponsored by Penn’s South Asia Center, Middle East Center, Center for East Asian Studies, Africa Center, Graduate Center & Family Resource Center, International House and Global Philadelphia Association.

Contact: anastasia.shown@gmail.com

Rule of Law Update

We are counting down to our third annual Rule of Law Conference! Each year, we go into different high schools across Philadelphia, we work with a teacher and their World History or AP Government class, and we try to relate this relatively abstract idea to the tangibles that the students see around them. Our relationships with these schools have really been thriving. And several schools have been with us for the past three years. The theme for this year “Civil and Criminal Justice: Incarceration” touches on several topics, ranging from the recent senate review of CIA detention centers to Rikers, to comparative analysis of practices, including rehabilitation methods and the use of acceptable force by police.

If you are interested in helping out on the project, please contact Daniel Bu at danielbu12@gmail.com.

Date: Saturday, February 28th
Tentative Venue: University of Pennsylvania

Rikers Island, East Elmhurst, NY
Meet Tomoko Torii!

Mark your calendars for the next UNA-GP Board Meeting!
Saturday, March 28th 10:00 AM
Location: TBD, most likely the Friends Center

The UNA-GP is pleased to introduce its newest board member, Tomoko Torii. A founder of the Harmony for Peace Founation, Torii has a passion for the arts and extensive experience in the management and operations of a non profit organization. She has lived, studied, and worked on three continents, and has a deep appreciation for the cultures and arts that exist across the world.

Torii made a name for herself leading international companies and consulting with major global corporations. She founded International Communications Consultancy in 1982, which specialized in making cross-cultural and international communication more effective.

However, Tomoko has also gained a reputation for her work in music and other arts. During the 1980s, she worked with the Morishita Ballet Company, one of the most renowned ballets in Japan. In 1999, Torii founded InterMusica, a NPO that promotes cultural exchange through music and gives music education.

These are only a few examples of the work Tomoko has done throughout her career. We are thrilled to have her join our team!
Global Temple Conference
Let’s Talk about the Study and Research Abroad Movement

Dr. Christiaan Morssink was the keynote speaker for Temple University’s “Global Temple” conference in November. He discussed the role of UNESCO, the global movement for studying and researching across borders, and the impact of new technologies on collaborative programs. Philadelphia’s many institutions of higher learning could coordinate their many disparate efforts in this field to create synergy and efficiency and meanwhile promote Philadelphia as a global hub for higher education.

We believe UNA-GP can play a role in realizing this vision.

You can read a transcript of the speech here.

Lana’s Blog
CEDAW News: In the Middle East and Africa
By Lana Ulrich

December 10th, or International Human Rights Day, marked the end of the recent campaign, 16 Days, aimed at spreading awareness of measures to end violence against women across the world. The color of the campaign was bright orange, and activists, citizens, and leaders all over the world donned orange gear in solidarity with the movement (see hashtag #Orangeurhood for more pictures on Twitter). Even the Middle East, a region not usually known for progressiveness in the field of women’s rights, got in on the action. For instance, the Great Pyramid and Sphinx outside of Cairo, Egypt were lit orange in commemoration.

Unwomen.org reported that events organized in several countries include the following:

• Kuwait held a walkathon, called “Begin by Breaking the Silence,” which was attended by Government officials from the Ministry of Health;

• In Jordan, Her Royal Highness Princess Basma bint Talal called on media to better address Article 308 of the Jordanian Penal Code—a focal point of their 16 Days campaign—which currently allows rapists to avoid prosecution if they marry their victims;

....

To read the rest of this piece or other edition’s of Lana’s blog, please visit the UNA-GP website.
Dear Readers,

My name is Arame Niang, and I am a student at the University of Pennsylvania double majoring in International Relations and African Studies. I am rejoining the UNAGP team this semester after spending my fall semester abroad at the University of Cape Town (UCT) in South Africa. Though my time was short— I was there between July and November of last year— I had an eye-opening experience that supplemented both my academic study and my work for the UNAGP.

As an International Relations major, I was interested in contemporary South African politics. I learned that though South Africa is part of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) and regarded has being one of the most developed countries on the African continent, the nation still suffers from the legacy of apartheid, the system of racial segregation that began formally in 1948 and ended in the 1990s under the leadership of Mandela. Today, South Africa is one of the most unequal countries in the world, with a gini coefficient close to 1. Since apartheid conflated race and class, an overwhelming percent of the nation’s poor is black. The townships in Cape Town, which are underdeveloped urban settlements, exist close to the skyscrapers and gated communities of the city’s most rich. I was able to visit a few townships and learn that though these communities experienced very high levels of poverty, residents were working to uplift their status and situation. I visited the Langa Township and saw how local residents were learning business skills that would help them market their neighborhood to the millions of tourists who visit Cape Town each year.

Last spring, I led the Youth Building Roots Program, which taught children at West Philadelphia’s Global Leadership Academy Charter School about urban gardening and culminated in a tree planting. When I was in Cape Town I was interested in whether urban gardening was a
popular movement and whether food security problems were on the government’s radar. What I noticed was that land distribution and access to fresh food was inequitable. When I went grocery shopping, fresh produce would be relatively expensive but I also noticed the government subsidized certain items like bread. I also noticed, that just like certain neighborhoods in West and North Philadelphia, the townships had no reliable or convenient sources of fresh produce. I visited wine farms and strawberry farms that would stretch out for long distances and go to townships and see a single patch of healthy grass on the community soccer field. Urban farming is an activity of the rich who can afford to own large homes with healthy backyards. Cape Town is located in the tip of the continent, has a Mediterranean climate and some of the most beautiful flora and fauna of the world. Wonderful mountains, the most well known ones being Table Mountain and Lions Head, the latter of which I had the opportunity to hike, can be seen almost everywhere in the city. The city is beautiful but intensely socially unequal.

The first-world, third-world dichotomy that exists in South Africa is very unique, but I encountered and even became friends with young South Africans who want to change the status quo and make the Rainbow Nation socially and economically inclusive for all.
On Monday, January 19, 2015, as part of Martin Luther King Jr.’s day of service, the UNA-GP, in collaboration with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and Global Water Alliance, hosted a Model United Nations conference on water stewardship in the Irvine Auditorium at the University of Pennsylvania.

A thought-provoking keynote speech by Patty Hall, co-founder and president of H2O for Life, set the mood. She shared her story of bringing water and sanitation education to schools that need it most, and why water issues are vital to almost all political and cultural conflicts.

After learning why the conference and water stewardship are vital, students worked diligently and debated possible solutions to water and sanitation problems. At the end of the day, committees voted on a nine-part resolution aimed to make access to potable drinking water easier, raise female retention rates in schools, and implement long-lasting solutions through communication and sustainability. See the full resolution on the next page.
At the Water Stewardship Model UN Conference, students voted for the following nine part resolution:

**The General Assembly**

- Fully realize that privacy is limited and so is access to potable drinking water.
- With the implementation of WASH programs, we strive to inspire higher rates of female retention in school.
- Bearing in mind the importance of long-lasting solutions by improving communication and long-term sustainability

**Girls and Women:**

- Encouraging female participation in leadership positions in regard to decision making in water issues. In doing so, women will be able to voice the importance of implementing separate gender facilities in order to be conscious of the need for privacy and safety.
- Advocate for the creation of a girls' hygiene curriculum in order to dispel myths, misconceptions, and misinformation surrounding women’s health and menstruation.
- Emphasize the knowledge and accessibility of feminine hygiene, and improve the community to support and establish disposable product bins in women’s stalls.

**Education:**

- Emphasize education about male and female sanitation and hygiene by implementing informative health programs led by teachers and educators who have received training from WASH advocates and other NGOs.
Resolution

**Technology:**

- **Affirm that privacy is a pivotal issue and should be addressed by designating as a priority the construction of private, sex-segregated lavatory facilities by adding partitions and dividers, and trust that NGOs will keep constant contact with the school community to maintain the upkeep of the system.**

- **Encourage community leadership, in collaboration with governments and NGOs, to integrate sustainable WASH solutions in the community.**

- **Endorse the use of technology such as solar panels and elevated water purification systems (using sand, gravel, and renewable resources) to resolve the problem of unsanitary water supplies.**

- **Further invite the community to use the excess sludge taken out of the water for agricultural needs and endorse the idea of a community garden encouraging healthy eating.**

- **Superintendents of facilities should request from state governments to apply for state grants and aid to improve security by putting locks inside stalls.**
The annual Health and Wellness Fair, which was part of a larger Greater Philadelphia Martin Luther King Day of Service, took place on January 19th, 2015 at Girard College. Hundreds of community organizers from the tri-state area filled up two floors to provide expert advice as well as vital services and resources to children, seniors and families on topics including but not limited to diabetes, sickle cell anemia, HIV/AIDS, and nutrition. Volunteers were also assisting people with voter registration since this year's fair marked the 50th anniversary of the 1965 voting rights act.

The event, which began at eight in the morning, opened with performances from local artists and introductions from Mayor Nutter and other elected officials. The UNAGP had a table with information about our organization and its upcoming events, specifically the Youth Building Roots Program in the Spring. The children who visited our table were able to color with our Urban Gardening coloring pages or engage in a mini planting activity, which provided them with their edible mustard seed plant to grow at home. The fair culminated by noon and was declared a great success.

Dr. Martin Luther King's message of peace, economic and social justice, and human rights are all values the United Nations stand for. We were grateful for the opportunity to take part in this year's Day of Service and hope to make an appearance every year to come.
Register Now!

UNA-USA and the Mid-Atlantic Region invite you to

Members' Day at the UN and the
7th Annual Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference

Friday, February 20, 2015
United Nations Headquarters
First Avenue at 47th Street, New York, NY 10017

*****

Join fellow UNA-USA members and UN supporters at the UN Headquarters for Members' Day, a day of dynamic and informative discussion on the most pressing issues facing the United Nations. UNA-USA members will get exclusive access to the UN, where they will hear from experts on topics like climate change and human rights, and network with community leaders, academics and students, and representatives from think tanks and like-minded organizations.

Don't miss out on what is expected to be the largest gathering of UN advocates in the United States. Visit www.unausa.org/membersday, and stay tuned to UNA-USA email and social media communications for more details on the conference program and speakers. Email membership@unausa.org if you have additional questions.

Be advised that the core team of UNA-GP will leave on Bolt Bus or Megabus, leaving at 6:00AM and 6:30AM. Each individual arranges his or her own tickers with the return trip scheduled according to their wishes.
8TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
“WASH Projects in Developing Countries: Lessons Learned"

SAVE THE DATE

*Where:* Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania

*When:* Thursday, March 26, 2015

Keynote Address by:

**Martha Newsome, Global Director of Health, Nutrition, and WASH, World Vision International**

And participation of representatives from the United Nations, World Bank, USEPA, International Water and Sanitation Leaders, and Major NGOs, including:

- **Susan Davis, Executive Director, Improve International**
- **Elynn Walter, Sustainability Director, WASH Advocates**
- **Dr. Jayanti Bandyopadhyay, Professor at the Business School at Salem State University** [invited]
- **Tim Prewitt, CEO, iDE** [invited]

The Global Water Alliance (GWA) is a network of interested organizations and individuals committed to helping to meet the UN Millennium Development Goals for water/sanitation throughout the world. By utilizing the resources and expertise of the Philadelphia Region and beyond, we work to increase global access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene services.
<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>Habitat III Preparatory Committee Meeting</td>
<td>January 27th</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>5:00PM - 7:00 PM</td>
<td>Friends Center, Room 21 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102 All members interested are welcome to attend</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workshop on Water Stewardship for Volunteers</td>
<td>January 31st</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>10:00AM - 12:00PM</td>
<td>Friends Center, Lucrecia Mott Room, 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia PA 19102. All members interested are welcome to attend.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member’s Day at the UN and the 7th Annual Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference</td>
<td>February 20th</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>UN Headquarters 1st Ave at 47th Street New York, NY 10017</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>Huntsman Hall University of Pennsylvania</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Women’s Day: Global Migrant Rights and Justice Celebration of initiatives advocating for the rights of migrant women and their families. Speakers explore immigration policies, women and children.</td>
<td>March 4th</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>International House, South America Room, 3701 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia PA 19104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GWA 8th Annual Conference “WASH Projects in Developing World: Lessons Learned”</td>
<td>March 26th</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>6:00 PM - 9:00 PM</td>
<td>Keynote speaker Martha Newsome, Global Director of Health, Nutrition, and WASH, representatives from UN, World Bank, major NGOs, etc. See flyer on page 17 Location: The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNA-GP Board Meeting</td>
<td>March 28th</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Location TBA</td>
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</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 January 2015 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

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