In this Issue:

- Invitation from UNA-GP to Educators
  Join us and participate in our educational programs for the 2015-2016 academic year! Page: 6

- UNA-GP Annual Membership Meeting
  This year’s theme: “Terrorism and a Free Press: Can Democracy Survive?” Page: 7

- UNA-USA Annual Meeting 2015
  Join us in Washington, DC to celebrate the UN’s 70th anniversary with a day of skill training, networking, culminating with a convergence on Capitol Hill! Page: 8

- UNA-GP Garden Party 2015
  Join us for a late afternoon of food, cool drinks, and dialogue! Page: 9

Table of Contents:

- President’s Letter ................................................................. 2
- Executive Director’s Letter .................................................. 4
- Volunteer Coordinator Update .............................................. 5
- Announcements & Congratulations ....................................... 5
- Letter to Philadelphia Educators ......................................... 6
- UNA-GP Annual Membership Meeting ............................... 7
- UNA-USA Membership Meeting Flyer ................................. 8
- UNA-GP Annual Garden Party ............................................. 9
- Upcoming Events .................................................................. 10
Dear members and friends of the United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia,

Memorial Day weekend, the gateway from spring to summer, brings an odd combination of celebration, consumer bargains, beer and barbecues, patriotism, flag-waving, and the very occasional memorial service at monuments and military cemeteries. It is a valuable reminder of the central purpose of the United Nations, bringing an end to war. It also brings a reminder of the way that patriotism and respect for the risks and hardships of military service can be exploited by politicians and the media to prevent any challenge to war-making or advocacy of diplomacy.

I hope the flags and drums will inspire an activist June on behalf of peaceful efforts to solve problems and end conflicts. There is the national UNA meeting in Washington, June 7-9, which includes a day on Capitol Hill to lobby on behalf of the US meeting its international commitments. For those who have not attended in the past, there are special rates for students and for first-time participants. It is an exciting opportunity to connect with internationally minded counterparts from around the country and to hear from UN officials and experts, even from the members of Congress who do represent our concerns! (See page 9 for details.) Later in June we have our own annual meeting for members, board, and interested public. We will follow up on our Human Rights Day program on freedom of the press (December 9, 2014). Our guest speaker, Sherif Mansour from the Committee to Protect Journalists, will focus on freedom and press concerns in the Middle East, and how that relates to the broader question: whether democracy itself is under siege. He is originally from Egypt and has been following the politics of the past 3 years of the Arab Spring and the subsequent waves of political change in Egypt and the region. The general meeting will be June 25th, 5:30-8:00, at the Carriage House at Penn (near the corner of 38th and Spruce). See page 7 for details and invitation. This is a great opportunity to bring along a friend who might be interested.

Sherif Mansour
This April I had the privilege of attending the centennial conference of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, held at The Hague where the founding women met in 1915 to propose a negotiated settlement to the war that was then less than one year old. The conference was both celebratory (dedicating a statue of Dutch feminist leader Dr. Aletta Jacobs at the splendid Peace Palace, only the second woman's statue in the well-garnished edifice) and urgently challenging with the presence of several women Nobel Peace Prize winners (Shirin Ebadi, Jody Williams, Mairead McGuire, Leymah Gbowee) and the personal outreach of women from countries in conflict such as Syria and Yemen.

It was a wonderful opportunity to realize the balance we need of individual courage to resist war and injustice and the importance of creating organizations and structures to work for lasting peace and justice. It always strikes me when I study the audacious peace plan of the women in 1915 that they were in no way inhibited or restrained by their official “powerlessness”; in 1915, not one of the 1300 delegates from 13 countries had a vote in their own national government. They rose above this and responded to the need for global citizenship and responsibility, an inspiring example still. (See [www.wilpfinternational.org](http://www.wilpfinternational.org) for more on the Women's Power to Stop War conference.)

Hoping to see many of you on June 25th,
A Few Words From Our Executive Director

From Christiaan’s Desk

In April, we wrote to the mayoral candidates in Philadelphia to ask if they would continue Mayor Nutter’s membership in the International Conference of Mayors for Peace. In the United States, 203 mayors belong to this organization, which seeks to unite local officials worldwide in an effort to abolish nuclear arms. I am writing from The Netherlands, where 150 mayors are members. However, the mayor of Deventer, my hometown, is missing from this list. So before I return to Philly, I have to get his attention and try to get him on board; there is so much to do when you are a global citizen.

We never received an answer from any of the candidates; we are, after all, rather small actors in the political arena of our city. However, during the Globally Minded Leadership Mayoral Forum on Monday, May 11th, peace, the culture of peace, and the history of peace were highlighted as distinct markers of Philadelphia’s global appeal. We can hope with some reason that Kenney, the winner of the democratic mayoral primary, or his republican competitor, Murray Bailey, will continue that membership. The Forum at the International House highlighted the importance and necessity of Philadelphia’s future leaders to be globally focused in order to ensure Philadelphia’s success on the world stage. Indeed, the affair, organized by the Global Philadelphia Association, indicates a new chapter in Philly politics, where public officials and the leaders of large organizations will learn to glocalize their strategies (terminology courtesy of Nestle’s CEO, glocalizing is the process by which we implement and assess local activities in a global context and vice versa). More material about the forum can be found on the GPA website.

From that same source we learned that Philadelphia has been selected to present "The Reinvention of the Navy Yard in Philadelphia" at the XIII World Congress of the OWHC at Arequipa, Peru, November 3-6, 2015 as part of their "World Heritage Cities, Resilient Cities" project. We are 1 of only 8 cities selected. Philadelphia is also well known internationally for its greening policies and water management strategies; all that bodes well for our efforts to get Philadelphia to the Habitat III conference in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 – 20 October 2016; we are a city with global messages indeed.

Meanwhile, we are preparing for the membership meeting in June, and the Garden Party in July. Please see elsewhere in this newsletter. Also in this newsletter you will find a letter indicating our plans for reaching out in the educational arena. Please take note of the plans of Harmony for Peace to hold its 3rd Annual Concert on UN Day, October 24th.
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

Announcements & Congratulations

Congratulations to our board member Prachi Potdar with the birth of daughter Sunehri Isla Shah!

Congratulations to our graduating members/volunteers Nathalie Figueroa, Zachary Troendle, Stephanie McAndrew, Julia Scarlett, and Alexandra Nawrot. We hope that their careers will be greatly influenced by their experiences with UNA-GP!

We are pleased to announce that 2015’s Harmony for Peace Concert will take place on a new date: UN Day on Monday, October 24th. Stay tuned for more details!
This letter has been sent to 20 teachers in the Philadelphia region. If you know of teachers or principals who might be interested, please inform them of UNA-GP’s educational outreach.

May 20, 2015
Philadelphia, PA

We promote the work of the United Nations through advocacy, raising awareness, and education. The overall goal of our educational work is to create a sense of cosmopolitanism in our citizens and youth, make them aware of the global markets in which they will have to work, learn, socialize, and live. Philadelphia stands to gain from creating a global citizenry.

UNA-GP is collaborating with a multitude of organizations in Philadelphia, in order to make this goal a reality. We work with Global Education Motivators, Global Philadelphia Association, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Project for Nuclear Awareness, the sorority Alpha Kappa Alpha, Fairmount Water Works, Global Water Alliance, Pennsylvania Council for International Education, as well as departments at Temple, Drexel, Penn, and others. Overall, we all provide complementary services to the schools in the Philadelphia region and all services carry the message of cosmopolitanism and global citizenship.

UNA-GP specifically provides three levels of services to complement the daily work done by you:

a. We provide guest speakers who can speak to a variety of subjects, from Human Rights, to Public Health, Career Counseling, Sports, Music, Food and Agriculture, and Water and Sanitation, and Habitat.

b. We can provide mentoring for student clubs, Advanced Placement students, senior writing projects, and class level projects.

c. We provide Alternative Model UN Conferences; small scale inter-school one day events where between 80 to150 students engage in a debate about a specific topic. The conferences are held on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania. The conferences require preparatory work ahead of the event, and we always seek to create a post-conference commitment to carry the work forward. We will schedule three conferences for 2015-16
   1. The 4th MUN on the Rule of Law, to be held on Saturday, February 27th 2016. This year’s focus will be on Fair Labor practices, enforcing labor laws and the future for our students in this regard.
   2. The 3rd MUN on Water Stewardship, to be held on MLK day, January 18. This year the focus will be on understanding rainwater management, from protection to collection and everything in between.
   3. New: The first MUN on Disarmament; a debate about the treaty on the trade of small arms and how that treaty relates to the many voices in the USA around gun control or the lack thereof.

We will correspond with you in the coming three weeks about more details and seeking your collaboration. For now we like to gauge your interest in attending a workshop about our educational programs to be scheduled in the week of August 24-28, preferably Wednesday 26, from 1-3 PM at the Friends Center, 1501 Cherry Street. Please respond by clicking on this link.

Christiaan Morssink, PhD, MPH

www.una-gp.org  1501 Cherry Street Philadelphia PA, 19102  info@una-gp.org
UNA-GP Membership Meeting 2015
June 25th, 5.30 to 8.00PM
The Carriage House, University of Pennsylvania,
3907 Spruce Street, Philadelphia

Please join us for our annual meeting, where we elect new board members, discuss our plans and our budget and do some socializing. The meeting is again at the Carriage House and we hope to see you and your friends.

**Agenda:**

5:30-5:50 PM Registration and Reception
(Light refreshments, courtesy of Manisha Patel)

5:50-6:50 PM Business Meeting:
   a. Report from the President: Mary Day Kent
   b. Report from the Treasurer and presentation of the budget 2015/16
   c. Report from the Nominating Committee and election of new board
   d. Overview of plans for the year ahead and discussion

(Materials for the Business Meeting will be available for mailing on June 18)

6:50- 7:40 PM Keynote Address by Sherif Mansour:
   **Terrorism & the Free Press: Can Democracy Survive?**

7:40-8:00 PM Mingling and Networking.

8.00 PM Adjournment and clean up.

Sherif Mansour is an Egyptian-American democracy and human rights activist. Before joining CPJ, he worked with Freedom House, in Washington, D.C., where he managed advocacy training for activists from the Middle East and North Africa. In 2010, Mansour co-founded the Egyptian Association for Change, a Washington-based nonprofit group that mobilizes Egyptians in the U.S. to support democracy and human rights in Egypt. He has monitored the Egyptian elections for the Ibn Khaldun Center for Development Studies and has worked as a freelance journalist. In 2004, he was honored by the Al-Kalema Center for Human Rights for his work in defending freedom of expression in Egypt. Mansour has authored several articles and conducted research studies on civil society and the role of the new media and civil society in achieving democracy. He was named one of the top 99 young foreign policy professionals in 2013 by the Diplomatic Courier. He received his master's in international relations from the Fletcher School at Tufts University and his bachelor's in education from Al-Azhar University in Cairo.
Register to Attend and Take Action at
This Year’s Annual Meeting

Sunday, June 7 – Tuesday, June 9
National Education Association (NEA Building)
1201 16th St NW
Washington, DC 20036

Friend,

If you have ever considered coming to Washington to have your say on American foreign policy, this is the year to do it.

UNA’s Annual Meeting and Advocacy Day comes at a pivotal moment for the world. This year the UN will adopt a new set of global development goals designed to lift a billion people out of extreme poverty, convene world leaders to take urgent action on climate change, and deploy over 100,000 peacekeepers in 17 missions designed to safeguard civilians in the most dangerous corners of the world. UNA-USA members across the country stand beside the Secretary-General every day in advancing these initiatives by casting tens of thousands of votes for the new development goals on the MyWorld website, making the case for action on climate change in classrooms and communities across the country, and leading the charge in the Thank-a-Peacekeeper campaign. But the most important support that any American can offer to these vital causes is to stand up for U.S. leadership at the UN in the halls of Congress.

UNA-USA’s Annual Meeting and Advocacy Day will take place from June 7-9, at the offices of the National Education Association in Washington, DC. The meeting will celebrate the UN’s 70th anniversary and feature skills trainings, issue briefings, networking opportunities, and capacity-building, before culminating in Advocacy Day when UNA-USA members converge on Capitol Hill to make the case for the cause we exist to support.

Registration is now open, and we are offering a discounted rate for those who sign up in the first two weeks (deadline April 22, 2015). College students and campus leaders can also apply for a $500 travel scholarship to attend this year’s meeting by completing the application by April 21, 2015 to be considered. And for more information on travel, lodging and accommodations, visit the UNA-USA Annual Meeting Website.

Thank you for your support of the UN! We look forward to seeing you in June.
Invitation
The sixth annual
FUNDRAISER
JULY 19; 5-8PM
146 Pelham Road, Philadelphia. 19119
Street parking: close to bus 23 and Carpenter Lane station.

All members and friends, please join us for a late afternoon and evening of food, cool drinks, hot air, even hotter dialogues and plenty opinions. Music in the background will be “non-live” with selections from around the globe. Raffle prizes. Bring a friend (or two, three), join in debates, make more friends the old fashioned way; forget Facebook and LinkedIn. Bring business cards and a jolly attitude.

Minimum contribution: $15.00
* Buffet-style, homemade food
* Cash Bar

RSVP: info@una-gp.org

THEME:
Cities for CEDAW
http://citiesforcedaw.org/
Will Philadelphia join the Cities for CEDAW movement?
Is the ballot box approval to install the Philadelphia Commission (N.B. NOT DEPARTMENT) for Women a first step or a far cry from what we demand?
How can the UNA-GP and others impact positively on opportunities created by this initiative?
Goal: to implement a CEDAW ordinance in Philadelphia and other cities in the region by 2016.

Background materials will be available.
Facilitators: Lana Ulrich and Mary Day Kent.
## UNA-GP Upcoming Events

(all subject to change), 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>8th Annual Membership Meeting</td>
<td>June 25th</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>5:30 PM - 8:00 PM</td>
<td>3907 Spruce Street Carriage House at the University of Pennsylvania Philadelphia, PA 19104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden Party</td>
<td>July 19th</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Afternoon</td>
<td>146 Pelham Road Philadelphia, PA 19119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNA-GP Board Meeting</td>
<td>August 20th</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>5:30PM - 7:00PM</td>
<td>TBA All members are welcome to attend.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Day of Peace</td>
<td>September 21st</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Workshop: The New SDGs: preparing for Habitat III Time and Location TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Habitat Day</td>
<td>October 6th</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Forum on Food Production and the new SDGs. Location and Time TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Food Day</td>
<td>October 16th</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Celebrating 70 years of global political dialogue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN Day Harmony for Peace Concert</td>
<td>October 24th</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>In the planning stages: a toilet run, flying toilets and latrines in the SDGs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Toilet Day</td>
<td>November 19th</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>An educational fair for teachers, parents, and teachers who teach teachers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Thinking Philadelphia</td>
<td>November 21st</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>A Toast to Eleanor, topic TBD Ethical Society 1906 Rittenhouse Sq Philadelphia, PA 19103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Human Rights Day: A Forum</td>
<td>December 10th</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>6:00 PM - 8:3:0 PM</td>
<td>A Toast to Eleanor, topic TBD Ethical Society 1906 Rittenhouse Sq Philadelphia, PA 19103</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 May 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

[Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/UNAGP)  
[Twitter](http://www.twitter.com/UNAGP)  
[Website](http://www.una-gp.org/)