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

Lana’s Blog
Ongoing Debate in Tonga Over CEDAW Ratification Reflects U.S. Challenges on a Smaller Scale Page: 6

UNA-GP Garden Party 2015
Join us for a late afternoon of food, cool drinks, and dialogue! Page: 8
Dear members and friends of the United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia,

"Patience and diligence, like faith, remove mountains." This motto looks up at me every day from the hooked rug next to my bed. Most of the time I tend to step over it and move on, but now and then it strikes me and I wonder if that is true and whether or not I believe it. I hope it's true because it seems to me that there are many mountains around us calling for a great deal of patience and diligence—some of them, sadly, are mountains I thought had already been partly removed (racism, sexism, the cold war and several hot wars) but now it looks like they are back and growing. All this by way of saying how grateful I am to the aspirations and successes of the United Nations and the hard (patient and diligent) work of our Board and members of UNA-GP to sustain support and connection to the UN and the grand goals it embodies (peace, human rights, health, knowledge...). This month we have a number of good opportunities to work with UNA-first of all our General Membership Meeting on June 25th where we will welcome some new Board members and appreciate some who have completed their service, followed by a presentation on Press Freedom and Democracy given by Sherif Mansour of the Committee to Protect Journalists. This will be combined with some light refreshments and networking time. If you have a friend or relative who might be interested in knowing more about the UNA-GP and the issues we work on, this is a good chance to invite them to join you and see what UNA-GP is about. See page 7 for details. Our General Membership Meeting is followed the next day by the US Social Forum, where the UNA-GP will be a cosponsor of the June 26th program on peace and disarmament.

Looking a little further into the future, we have our annual "Global Garden Party" on July 19th, an event unique to UNA-GP that combines summer celebration, fundraising, and enticing new people to join us. See page 8 for details. We do have some time off in late July and August before the surge of activity in September to December is upon us. There will be Philly Peace Day, the Global Philadelphia Association’s "GlobalPhilly2015" fall festival, our own United Nations Day and Human Rights Day events, and many others still percolating in the minds of their planners. And, these planners could be YOU! Please join us and share your ideas.

Mary Day Kent, President, UNA-GP
In 1971, I wrote a text about Franz Fanon on the tenth anniversary of his death and the publication of his major work “Les Damnés de la Terre”. The text got published in De Groene Amsterdammer, a leading opinion weekly in The Netherlands. It was the start of some dabbling in journalism, opinion journalism that is; I freelanced for the Dutch Educational Television, and wrote a report on the UNCTAD technical conference that was held in Amsterdam. Journalism and applying social science seems to go hand in hand in my world. I experienced displeasure, anger, compliments, all kind of reactions. I never experienced threats to my existence or my freedom. That feeling of being free to speak and freely engage, that all changed in Suriname in 1982 with the “December Murders”. 15 men were tortured and brutally killed by the military dictatorship, among them my friend Johnny Baboeram, a lawyer, and five journalists, Andre Kamperveen, Josef Slagveer, Bram Behr, Frank Wijngaarde, and Leslie Rahman. Suriname has never been “free” since when it comes to thought, opinions, or writing. Not until the murderers are dealt with.

This personal experience makes me deeply appreciative of the work of the Committee to Protect Journalists, because, indeed, journalists are at risk, deeply at risk, especially when shining light on the political travails of the power obsessed. Indeed, Journalism needs Democracy, Journalism needs the culture and the practice of the Rule of Law. That is why in the United Nations, through the UNESCO,
we find a constant demand to build protection for journalists, for promoting the Rule of Law, and for discussing and improving human rights around the world. I am therefore grateful that Sherif Mansour will be joining us at our membership meeting on June 25th to illustrate and discuss the existential threat to democracy if journalists get muzzled, when they get killed.

On Sunday the 7th Mary Day Kent and I spent a day in Washington at the UNA-USA meeting. We did not go to the hill, but did do some other networking. A noteworthy speech by Gillian Sorensen highlighted the need for more transparency in the selection of the next Secretary General (and we all agreed it is time to think about a female candidate) and how the NGO’s accredited with the UN should become more involved in demanding that transparency. We also learned about the youth-related subgroup within UNAUSA, the GenUN, and how they reach out onto campuses, something that I would like to get involved with in the coming year.

At the UNA-GP membership meeting we will discuss some plans for the next year. I need to start writing on that so let me finish this epistle with the hope to see you there on June 25.
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

Fundraising Campaign for the Kumasi Children’s Home School

Last summer, two members of the UNAGP team, Arame Niang and Sabine Cardio went to Kumasi, Ghana, for an international development program at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology. They were able to attend lectures given by Ghanaian professors and professionals and volunteer at the Kumasi Children's Home. There, they spent time with teachers and students at the primary school that was located in the home. After returning to the United States, Arame and Sabine decided to join the fundraising efforts for the school, as it was achieving monumental successes in caring for its students.

The primary school located in the Kumasi Children's Home has the first and only inclusive special needs education program in Kumasi, Ghana. The school is only five years old and has already achieved great advancements, including the addition of a school van to transport special needs kids from their homes to the school. Madame Shirley, who is the current headmistress of the school, and other teachers at KCH are worthy of praise for all they have done and all they continue to do for their students.

For more information about the campaign and to donate please visit:
http://www.gofundme.com/iit0mk

Students at the Kumasi Children’s Home School (KCH)
Recently, the small Polynesian island state of Tonga (officially known as the Kingdom of Tonga) has attempted to recharge an internal process toward ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Earlier this year, the Tongan government had announced that it planned to move forward with steps toward official ratification. The U.N. Human Rights Office in the Pacific began working with the Tongan government to help them move toward ratifying the convention, while NGOs and other groups inside the country have come forward and supported the movement. Not long after, however, opposition groups such as the Tonga Catholic Women’s League began protesting against ratification. On May 22, these groups handed a 15,000-signature petition to the Tongan palace, requesting that the Tongan king, King Tupou VI, stop the government from ratifying the convention. Opponents have expressed concern over ratification of the convention, arguing that it will force same sex marriage and abortion upon the country.

Vanessa Heleta from the Talitha Development Project says that this is a “misconception” and people are being “brainwashed” against the treaty: “I feel very sad and I feel that it is a waste of time because there are so many other issues we can address but it is drowned by this wrong misconception.”

This debate is notable not only because Tonga remains one of the few countries of the world—alongside the United States—which has yet to ratify CEDAW, but because it also mirrors a similar debate about ratification and the challenges faced by CEDAW supporters in the United States.

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To read the rest of this piece or other editions of Lana’s blog, please visit the UNA-GP website.
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.
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.
We are preparing ourselves in Philadelphia for this conference, an opportunity offered only every 20 years. Faculty and students on the different campuses are having workshops and seminars, and infusing the materials in class instructions.

At UNA-GP we have formed a working group: PHILLY PREPS FOR HABITAT III. The working group wants to bring the message of Habitat III to the classrooms, to the citizens, to the politicians. In order to that, UNA-GP has planned the following:

- Make speakers and materials available for high schools, colleges, NGO’s.
- Organize Seminars
  
  **Seminar 1:** October 6, 2015: Annual Habitat Day. Theme: Flood Mitigation in the context of Global Warming: setting new parameters and methods
  
  **Seminar 2:** November 19, 2015: Global Water Alliance: Theme: Opportunities in Urban Waste Technology, the next generation.
  
  **Seminar 3:** February 20, 2016: World Day for Social Justice: Theme: Affordable housing, Fair Housing practices, keeping it healthy for all.
  
  **Seminar 4:** April 22, 2016: Earth Day: Theme: Urban Farming and Fair Food Practices. Greening our greens.

- Develop a blog and a Facebook page
- Build a data base of links and websites
- Create a Philadelphia contingent for Quito.

**Habitat Theme:**

**The Future We Want, the City We Need**

Habitat III will be one of the first global conferences after the Post 2015 Development Agenda. It is an opportunity to discuss and chart new pathways in response to the challenges of urbanization and the opportunities it offers for the implementation of the sustainable development goals.

The conference brings together diverse urban actors such as governments, local authorities, civil society, the private sector, academic institutions and all relevant interest groups to review urban and housing policies affecting the future of cities within an international governance architecture, with a view to generate a ‘New Urban Agenda’ for the 21st century which recognizes the ever-changing dynamics of human civilization. Habitat III offers Member States an opportunity to discuss a New Urban Agenda that will focus on policies and strategies that can result in effectively harnessing the power and forces behind urbanization. The Conference will result in a concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented outcome document: the New Urban Agenda. Rethinking the Urban Agenda is embracing urbanization at all levels of human settlements. More appropriate policies can embrace urbanization across physical space, bridging urban, peri-urban and rural areas, and assist governments in addressing challenges through national and local development policy frameworks. And also it is integrating equity as an issue of social justice, ensuring access to the public sphere, extending opportunities and increasing the commons.
## 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>5:00 PM - 8:00 PM</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>Many events. Stay tuned.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Habitat Day</td>
<td>October 6th</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Workshop: The New SDGs: preparing for Habitat III Time and Location TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Food Day</td>
<td>October 16th</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Forum on Food Production and the new SDGs. Location and Time TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN Day Harmony for Peace Concert</td>
<td>October 24th</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Celebrating 70 years of global political dialogue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Toilet Day</td>
<td>November 19th</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>In the planning stages: a toilet run, flying toilets and latrines in the SDGs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Thinking Philadelphia</td>
<td>November 21st</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>An educational fair for teachers, parents, and teachers who teach teachers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Human Rights Day: A Forum</td>
<td>December 10th</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>6:00 PM - 8:30 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 June 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/  
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