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

This is one of the most intensive months for global and peace-minded people, with many events coming in the next few weeks: World Food Day (Oct. 16) and United Nations Day (Oct. 24) being the two most important for UNA-GP, but many others in Philadelphia and our region on other themes of peace, justice, and building international community. Of course, we here in Philadelphia had our experience of international community the weekend of September 26-27 when the simple man from Rome came and turned the city inside out and we were joined by pilgrims from all over the world.

As we look forward to celebrating the 70th year of the United Nations on October 24th, I feel that we are surrounded by daily evidence of the essential importance of this international institution. In the positive sense, we see the global launch of the new "Sustainable Development" goals for the coming 15 years, a new set of markers for the world to aim for to make a better life for all. On the darker side, we see the UN being called on to respond to the millions of refugees from Syria and to provide an objective investigation of the MSF hospital bombing in Afghanistan. We all have come to count on the UN and turn to it in our moments of need. Part of the purpose of the UNA is to keep up support for this organization so that it will indeed be able to serve these many needs we bring to it. It is fitting that our celebration on October 24th will be a forum on the role of faith and tolerance in peace, since the UN is definitely a "faith-based" organization, even if it includes all religions and none. I hope that many of us will be able to participate in our forum: “Living Together: The Art of Religious Tolerance” at 1:00 pm, Saturday afternoon, October 24th. It will be at the Kimmel Center and will be followed by the Harmony for Peace concert at 3:00. See page 8 for details and the link to register and buy a ticket for the concert. Concertgoers are welcome to the forum/ forum-goers are encouraged to buy a ticket for the concert!

I hope to see many of you at the Forum,

Mary Day

Mary Day Kent, President, UNA-GP

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

Five days late on my self-imposed deadline for the October newsletter, I am typing at the kitchen table, because my desk is too cluttered. Too much going on, at the start of the academic year, with new student workers, new class schedules, and our educational activities to be promoted and planned, while at the same time, events are organized that are part of our awareness raising. It seems that all the hoopla from a month ago about Iran-Contra, oops Iran Nuclear deal and our soccer tournament and the peace march are ancient history as we run forward to our next events, World Food Day and UN Day. Meanwhile, I witnessed a great presentation at our first Habitat III workshop on flood mitigation, badly attended, that has to be the start of a year-long attention to the Habitat III conference, early October 2016 in Ecuador.

I hope that this newsletter can still come out in time as a last call for our World Food Day event, when we will discuss Fighting Hunger in Philadelphia, with “heavy hitters and innovators” from the field. Our student workers have invited our student members and their friends for a “Social” following the WFD discussion at the same place, spreading the cost for the rental and the food. As usual, we do these things for free and we rely on donations (some say “Free Will Offering”) to make ends meet.

Meanwhile, Tomoko and Kristin from Harmony for Peace and me and a few others of UNA-GP are on pins and needles about the Forum and the Concert on UN Day, October 24th. We hope to see a great many of our members show up at the concert and the forum deliberations.

Tomoko Torii (Source: Peace News Now)
A Few Words From Our Executive Director

Our relationships with the schools are expanding slowly but surely. Our Youth Building Roots program and the three alternative Model United Nations, on the rule of law, water stewardship, and on disarmament have been and will be presented to schools throughout the region in the coming weeks. Meanwhile, our student workers are developing service learning formatted lesson plans that will be implemented in late November and beyond.

Please note that we will engage with the Global Water Alliance for an awareness event on the University of Pennsylvania campus (and hopefully elsewhere) during World Toilet Day, November 19th; to emphasize the water and W.A.S.H aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals. Those goals not only pertain to the so-called “developing world”; they pertain in equal measure to our own urban environment as well.

Please save the date for December 10, Human Rights Day; Topic: Refugees/Immigrants/Displaced/Trafficked and their traumas. I am ashamed as a Dutchman of the fascist mob that terrorized a refugee center in Woerden in Holland the other day. I hope those lowlifes, like elsewhere, will be outshouted and outmaneuvered by the well-meaning and empathizers. On that note, I am deeply saddened by the horror that Turkey experienced yesterday. It is hard to stay positive when so much negativity is on display in the political strivings around the world. The UN is a platform for dialogue and confrontation of ideas and opinions. No need to spill blood to pursue political agendas. But of course, I am just a silly dreamer, who imagines that all the people can live in peace. Happy Birthday, John Lennon.
A Few Words From Our Volunteer Coordinator

Manisha Patel

UNA-GP's newly formed Membership Committee has been meeting regularly with a mission of mobilizing the community in becoming more involved in the local chapter. Membership support helps in bringing programming for the local community, its schools and university students. Some of the other objectives of the committee are to keep its members more connected to world issues through participation in Chapter events as well as get them involved in UNA-USA/UN programs and grow local support for the ideals and work of the UN in Philadelphia's community.

Manisha Patel
mpatel@una-gp.org

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)
On September 21st, teachers and students along with parents and concerned citizens walked from Mount Airy Cemetery to Lutheran Theological Cemetery to promote peace making and social justice. Check out some photos from the event:
On October 16th, UNA-GP members and interested citizens came together to hear from speakers whose programs confront different aspects of food issues in Greater Philadelphia.

Speakers Glen Bergman, CEO of Philabundance, Tatiana Garcia-Granados, Co-Founder of The Common Market, Dwayne Wharton, Director of External Affairs of The Food Trust, and Stephanie Berardi, Principal of “Sustainable in the City,” (left to right in the picture below) showed how their respective organizations aim to eliminate hunger and obesity in Philadelphia and make its food systems more sustainable. In addition, one of our work study students, Arame Niang, introduced the Youth Building Roots program, which, in collaboration with NOVI, educates middle school students on nutrition, food security, local food production, and global food sustainability problems.

Highlights included a presentation by Tatiana Garica-Granados, Co-Founder of The Common Market, who spoke about her local foods distribution center that connects almost 150 schools, hospitals, grocers, and workplaces to sustainable farms in Pennsylvania and Delaware. Philabundance, represented by CEO Glen Bergman, showed the audience how it provides food to 90,000 people every week through its network of food cupboards, shelters, and emergency kitchens.
On October 6th, UNA-GP members had the opportunity to hear from Carol R. Collier, AICP, Senior Advisor of Water Management and Policy, on flood mitigation and climate change. Her engaging presentation informed the audience of water issues that affect all Philadelphians, and will continue to as climate change’s effects become more visible.
Peace Forum

“Living together: The Art of Religious Tolerance”

October 24th, 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

At the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts - 300 S. Broad St., Philadelphia

Presented by

Harmony For Peace Foundation & the United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia

Focusing on the universal human rights regarding religious freedom, this interactive forum, using speakers, testimonials and dialogue will highlight the role of the United Nations, the legacy of the visionary work of William Penn and the special history of Philadelphia as a city founded on the principles of religious freedom and tolerance.

The Members of the Panel

- Lucille P. Pilling, Ed.D., MPH, RN, (Moderator), Member of UNA-GP
- Yashpal S. Bains, P.E., from the Sikh Community
- Jacob Bender, Exec. Director of Philadelphia Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)
- Mary Day Kent, President of the Board, UNA-GP
- Gity Banan Etemad, M.D., from the Bahai Faith Community
- Bishop McNeill, Center for Freethought Equality
- Reverend Marshall Paul Hughes Mitchell, Salem Baptist Church of Jenkintown
- Hugh Taft-Morales, Ethicist and Leader of the Ethical Society of Philadelphia

This forum is a part of the event to celebrate UN Day and its 70th Anniversary. The UN Day Peace Concert will immediately follow the Forum from 3:00-5:00 p.m. The Peace Forum is a free event but requires a concert ticket or a pass.

Peace Concert

A platform for internationally, regionally and locally known artists to work together with young performers and promote friendship and peace beyond border. Featuring Johan de Meij, the world renowned composer of “The Lord of the Rings” Symphony.

Tickets for the concert are $28-$48. (This includes a pass to the forum).

Concert Ticketholders are welcomed and encouraged to attend the forum before the concert! Celebration Dinner to follow the concert (Please refer to Donor Plan).


To attend only the forum, please request a pass by emailing to - info@una-gp.org.

Peace Forum is a partnership of Harmony for Peace Foundation and the United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia, with support from many organizations, and friends. The Harmony for Peace Foundation is the main organizing and fiduciary partner for this event.
Join us to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations

CELEBRATE PEACE for UN70

A Very Special Concert Hosted by

Harmony For Peace

Featuring world-renowned composer/conductor

Johan de Meij

("The Lord of the Rings" Symphony)

Saturday, October 24, 2015, 3 p.m.

Verizon Hall, The Kimmel Center for Performing Arts, Philadelphia

Johan de Meij, Conductor

Peabody Youth Orchestra (Music Director: Harlan D. Parker)

Chester County Youth Choir & Chorale

ChildrenSong of New Jersey

Gohei Nishikawa, piano

Yeou-Cheng Ma, violin


Project Partner: United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia


$28 – $48 (includes Peace Forum pass); 10% discount for seniors and students

Information: +1-484-885-8539 info@harmonyforpeace.org
CELEBRATE PEACE – FOR UN70
FULL DAY OF PEACE

PEACE FORUM
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m
“Living Together; the Art of Religious Tolerance”
Meeting Room (TBA), Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts. A forum on the United Nations mission for our universal rights - our speakers will highlight the work of the United Nations, the legacy of the visionary work of William Penn, and the complexities of living together.
- Open to all concert attendees – (Reservation Needed)

PROJECT PARTNER
United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia

PEACE CONCERT
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Verizon Hall, Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts
With special guest conductor Johan de Meij and Peabody Youth Orchestra with Harmony For Peace Musicians, Yeou-Cheung Ma (violin), Gohei Nishikawa (piano)
2015 Jr. Peace & Music Ambassador solo and with the 2014 Jr. Ambassador (Brendan Zuk), Chester County Youth Choir & Chorale, ChildrenSong of New Jersey

Program:
Part I

Part II
- Gandalf [Movement I from Symphony No. 1 The Lord of the Rings]
- Jupiter - Gustav Holst [from the Planets]
- Mother Earth [Movement III from Symphony No. 3 Planet Earth] … and more

PEACE DINNER
5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Celebration Dinner & Meet the Artist Reception at a downtown restaurant for package ticketholders.

Donor Packages  (includes Peace Forum pass)
- Concert/Celebration Dinner/"Gift of Music" Donation: $175 - $350

Sponsor a student from a local school to attend the concert
Gift of Music Program - Sponsoring Great Kids from our Area - To share our message of cross-cultural peace through the arts, and to encourage music education and opportunities in this region. This program is made possible through your generous donations.
- Concert & “Gift of Music” Donation: from $80
- “Gift of Music” Donation Only: from $35

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES AVAILABLE
- Please email kristin@harmonyforpeace.org or call +1-484-885-8539.

Calling all Engineering, Design, Architecture, and Planning Students…
You Could Win $2,500!

Flood Mitigation Contest

Students from the regional universities around Philadelphia are invited to enter this competition (individually or in small groups). Use your skills to provide a creative solution to the problem of flooding that plagues the Fairmount Water Works during large storm events.

Runner Up Award—$1,000. Timeline: Students can obtain technical data, blueprints and consultancy reports starting in September. Access to the Fairmount Water Works and its staff can be arranged during normal operating hours. Registration closes October 31, 2015. Participants are to submit and present their design at the Fairmount Water Works on March 22, 2016 (World Water Day). Prizes are awarded on April 22, 2016 (Earth Day). Design: Designs should be based on the use of modern weather forecasting, modern material and construction techniques, and state of the art computerized scenario calculations. Contestants should work with an eye on frugality, and create a design ready for testing. The Fairmount Water Works is a historical landmark, and the flood mitigation design needs to incorporate the conditions for staying within the limits of the requirements thereof.

Logistics and Judging: A panel of three judges will assess the designs in terms of creativity, budgetary considerations, strength and longevity, complexity and feasibility. The contest is a project of the Global Water Alliance (GWA), The Engineers Without Borders - USA Philadelphia Professional Chapter, Fairmount Water Works and the United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia.

For registration, or more information, contact Christiaan Morssink of the Global Water Alliance at morssink@una-gp.org.

Flood Mitigation in Light of Global Warming: A New Line of Work for the Next Generation

Global warming is impacting the habitat of all of humanity, and for the majority of cities urgent planning and re-designs are needed to tackle worst case scenarios. New opportunities are abundant, and now is the time to build the knowledge base and the educational systems to address these concerns at home and globally.
**The Philadelphia we want, The city we need**

We are preparing ourselves in Philadelphia for this conference, an opportunity offered only once 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.

**Contact**: info@una-gp.org

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**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.
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<td>Kimmel Center 300 Broad Street Philadelphia, PA 19102</td>
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<td>United Nations Day: Harmony for Peace Concert</td>
<td>October 24th</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>3:00PM - 5:00PM</td>
<td>Celebrate UN70 with a special concert hosted by Harmony for Peace</td>
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<td>with special guest Johan de Meij.</td>
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<td>Kimmel Center 300 Broad Street Philadelphia, PA 19102</td>
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<td>UNA-GP Board Meeting</td>
<td>November 14th</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>10:00AM - 12:00PM</td>
<td>University of Pennsylvania Van Pelt Library Room 402 3420 Walnut Street</td>
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<td>World Toilet Day</td>
<td>November 19th</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>5:30PM - 8:00PM</td>
<td>Getting ready for sustainable toilets; collaboration with GWA, EWB and</td>
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<td>Nursing UPenn Nursing School</td>
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<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>
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<td>International Human Rights Day</td>
<td>December 10th</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Topic: Refugees, Immigrants, Displaced, Trafficked, and their traumas</td>
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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 October 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 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 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
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