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The 3rd United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development. 2016 theme: The Future We Want, the City We Need Page: 10

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Contemplating Thanksgiving amidst so much violence and tragedy, I want to lift up a couple of recent items of good news:

This year the country of Mozambique has almost totally completed the slow, costly, and intensely difficult process of mine-clearance...a rare triumph that has taken more than 20 years to accomplish. Today I read in the NY Times that WHO is on the brink of declaring that polio has been defeated everywhere in the world except for Taliban controlled areas of Afghanistan and Pakistan where vaccination campaigns are not allowed. Polio eradication is particularly meaningful to me because my earliest identifiable memory is of my father being brought home from the hospital to recover from polio, a disease which struck him at a healthy, athletic 26, kept him bedridden for about a year, and walking with a limp the rest of his life. And, locally, our city of Philadelphia has been welcomed into the ranks of "World Heritage Cities", the first US city to join this list of 279 around the world. All of these achievements are the result of different forms of international cooperation and patient building of institutions and relationships, offering hope even while we are surrounded by so much willful destruction.

Among the first and most urgent tasks of the United Nations at its founding was the care and resettlement of millions of displaced persons and refugees, and this continues to be one of the core needs the UN addresses. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees currently attempts to shelter, feed, care for and resolve the future of about 30 million people, and even that is only about half of the world's uprooted population with many displaced people totally outside the framework of international assistance. On December 10th we will hold our annual meeting in honor of
Human Rights Day and this year the concern of refugees globally and our response here in Philadelphia will be the theme. We will have a keynote speaker from the office of the UNHCR and representatives of two of the Philadelphia area refugee and immigrant assistance groups, HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) and NSC (Nationalities Service Center) will speak of the challenges and resources for refugees in this area. See page 9 for the Dec. 10th event flyer. As the governors and other politicians of many states have put out the "unwelcome" mat for refugees, especially those fleeing the complex and brutal war in Syria, we can be glad that our Governor in Pennsylvania and our incoming Mayor for Philadelphia have spoken out with firm commitments to maintaining our obligation to offer asylum and refuge to those in need. However, our Dec. 10th event is a chance to support and reinforce that generous position which is under pressure from the climate of fear being fanned by some politicians and the media that repeat their statements.

This has been another year of hard work and tremendous activity for our UNA chapter. I hope that we will all have a Thanksgiving of fellowship and sharing and be ready to complete our program year on Dec. 10th with "Global Refugee Crisis, Philadelphia's Response".

Always in hope,
Mary Day

Mary Day Kent, President, UNA-GP
A Few Words From Our Executive Director

From Christiaan’s Desk

As of two days ago Philadelphia is now the first U.S. city registered as a World Heritage City. Awesome; it is the latest of several newsworthy items during the last month that should please the globally oriented Philadelphian. We also had good reports about the actual start of the implementation of the Iran Deal and did visit (with others) Senator Casey to specifically thank him for his role in giving credence to diplomacy. We had our celebration of the 70th anniversary of the United Nations with a fabulous peace concert organized by our friends from the Harmony for Peace Foundation. Before that concert, the Peace Forum at the Kimmel Center on the topic of the Art of Religious Tolerance was a tribute to the principles of expressing religious freedom, as envisioned and implemented by William Penn and now a major component of the UN Charter.

Our Forum on World Food Day (October 16) was focused on innovation and resiliency in fighting hunger and malnutrition in our region. Four speakers illustrated issues around food waste, tracking down those in need, improving the nutritious aspects of food and the supplementing the urban food production landscape. Innovations in food production are needed that emphasize the need for more food as well as the need for sustainability in ecological terms. Questions arose about genetic manipulation and genetic modifications. Following our Forum, a small gathering of young members, the GenUN, stayed to socialize and discuss opportunities for further involvement.
(Two weeks later). I am still writing text, now from Holland. A few days ago we “celebrated” World Toilet Day at the Nursing school of the University of Pennsylvania. We had a forum with participation from the Engineers without Borders and American Standard. During the reception, we dared our participants to become “buttheads” in support of fighting for global sanitation equity. The event was not well attended, especially not by UNA-GP members, and we blamed most of that on the really bad weather and related travel conditions. However, we did some really important networking and we expect to stay involved with the Global Water Alliance (formerly PGWI) to celebrate WTD each year.

It looks like that Bob Groves and Prachi Potdar are putting together a great event for Human Rights Day. See elsewhere for a flier about that. I look forward to hearing the invited speakers.

Finally, I hope that you will read “I wish you a happy Thanksgiving” as appropriate; if not, please read instead: “I hope you had a good Thanksgiving and a great Black Friday”.

“Butthead” Christiaan
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 October 24th, Philadelphians and UNA-GP members alike gathered for this year’s Harmony for Peace Concert and forum, in celebration of United Nations Day.

This year’s peace forum focused on universal human rights regarding religious freedom, with a wide array of panelists who spoke eloquently about the United Nation’s role in the growth of religious tolerance. The concert, the culmination of the day’s events featured various local musical and vocal talents.
The Global Refugee Crisis

Philadelphia's Response

Hear expert panelists on the global migrant crisis and emerging refugee challenges. Share ideas for steps to be taken globally and locally. Lend your support to organizations taking up the challenge. Honor the 67th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This is a free program and refreshments will be provided.

Speakers

Keynote speaker: Jana Mason
Senior Advisor for Government Relations and External Affairs at the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees

Juliane Ramic
Senior Director for Refugee and Community Integration at the Nationalities Services Center

Carrie Fox-Kline
Director of Refugee Programming and Planning at HIAS-Pennsylvania

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT BOB GROVES AT LFBG@COMCAST.NET
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

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

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<th>Activity/Event</th>
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| **International Human Rights Day** | December 10th | Thursday   | 6:00PM - 8:30PM | **Topic: The Global Refugee Crisis**  
The Ethical Society  
1906 Rittenhouse Square  
Philadelphia, PA 19103 |
| **UNA-GP Board Meeting**           | January 7th  | Thursday   | 5:30PM - 7:30PM | Location TBD.  
All interested are welcome to attend.                                          |
| **Model UN on Water Management**   | January 18th (MLK Day) | Monday | All Day | Model UN conference for local high schools on water management.  
Tentatively Planned for the University of Pennsylvania |
| **Observation of International Women’s Day** | March 15th | Tuesday   | TBD            | Details TBD  
Location: International House, University of Pennsylvania                      |
| **UNA-GP Board Meeting**           | March 19th   | Saturday   | 10:00AM - 12:00 PM | Location TBD  
All interested are welcome to attend.                                           |
| **UNA-GP Board Meeting**           | May 12th     | Thursday   | 5:30PM - 7:30PM | Location TBD  
All interested are welcome to attend.                                           |
| **UNA-GP Annual Meeting**          | June 23rd    | Thursday   | 5:30PM - 8:00PM | Location TBD, most likely the Friends Center |
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 November 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

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