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President's Letter

May 2016

Dear Members and Friends of UNA-GP,

It is very hard to hold a course for long range peace and constructive action in the world. It is not easy at any time but it is particularly difficult amid the whirlwind and static of the daily politics of this election year here in the US. Through the United Nations Association we try to keep our attention on the underlying issues and the goals for the future that we can all share. We support planning for Habitat III, coming up next October in Ecuador, the world conference on urban planning. We encourage learning about the new global goals for Sustainable Development, the goals for advancing development after the Millenium Development goals (2000-2015). We work with the Philadelphia Water Initiative, Engineers without Borders, and other groups here and internationally to preserve clean water and make it available to all as a human right.

Our next two major events represent two of the foundational issues of the UN: nuclear disarmament and the human rights of displaced persons and refugees. Our general members meeting will be June 23rd at the Friends Center (1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, 19102) at 5:30 pm. Our speaker will be John Feffer, director of the Foreign Policy in Focus project of the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, DC. His talk will highlight the ongoing urgency of nuclear disarmament and the links between nuclear policy and other international conflicts. This year is the 70th year since the first UN resolution at the first UN General Assembly meeting, which was a resolution calling for nuclear disarmament. To this day the UN committee dealing with disarmament is known as the First Committee, the first ever established. Following the June general meeting we will have our annual "Global Garden Party", always held around the date of the International Day of Justice. This year's Garden Party will be Sunday, July 17th, and our speakers will be talking about the experiences and needs of refugees, speaking from their own lives as refugees from Liberia and Syria. The garden party is always an opportunity to strengthen our UNAGP community, appreciate people, nature and good food and drink, and to deepen our understanding and commitment to a significant peace and justice cause, in this case the overwhelming circumstances of the millions of refugees around the world.

Hoping we can all help each other to keep our heads up during the stormy months ahead,

Mary Day

Mary Day Kent, UNA-GP President
Preparing for, undergoing of, and recuperating from open chest, triple bypass surgery is a prolonged, intense exercise of focusing on self; being reminded (again) of one’s mortality, realizing what the real meaning is of the label “your loved ones” and, now, during the recovery, understanding how important it is to live your life with a sense of urgency, perhaps irrelevant, vain, urgency, but urgency nevertheless. It is amazing how quickly you can lose connections to the causes of humanity as that humanity marches on. I am saddened by the fact that I could not attend the commencements of several of our work study students; they will leave Philadelphia without having gotten a last bear hug from me. I am aware that several projects for the summer and the next academic year had to be put on the backburner, as I never took the time to “delegate” these projects properly. So be it.

I am a lucky man. I underwent now twice very expensive, very intense and routine, yet risky, medical procedures in Philadelphia. If you have to become sick, make sure you are in a town like Philadelphia, where there is a large supply market. If you have to become sick, thank the stars for having the right insurance. Our family is indeed lucky in that regard. It looks like we will never have to worry about bankruptcy due to medical bills. And it saddens me that we are the lucky ones while so many others in our nation, in our world, can be economically wiped out due to illness. “Obamacare” does not go far enough; I support those who promote “Medicare for all” or “single payer systems”. In that same vein I am happy to hear that there are, yet oh so modest, discussions at the World Bank and the WHO about creating a global “blanket” of national health care insurance systems. I want to tackle the horror behind the nonchalant remark at the market in Bamenda, Cameroon: “Ah well, when you’re poor and get sick, you’re dead”. National health insurance systems need to be developed, implemented and improved. It is a clear extension of our embrace of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

I am recuperating well. Well enough that I intend to be at the membership meeting on June 23. Well enough that I can host our next garden party in July. I am not so sure when I will be able to kick butt again; may need to go to physical therapy to get my foot up that high.

Peace to you all.
A Few Words From Our Volunteer Coordinator

UNA-GP's Membership Committee has been meeting regularly in preparation for next year's Model UN conferences and could use your help! Membership support helps in bringing programming for the local community, its schools and university students. Members are more connected to world issues through their participation in Chapter events and their involvement in UNA-USA/UN program. They grow local support for United Nations ideals and its work in Philadelphia's community.

Manisha Patel
mpatel@una-gp.org

Spotlight on Human Rights

Center for Constitutional Rights

The Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) is dedicated to advancing and protecting the rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Based in New York City, CCR was founded in 1966 by attorneys who represented civil rights movements in the South. CCR employs litigation, education, and advocacy to advance the law in a positive direction. It works to empower poor communities and communities of color, to guarantee the rights of those with the fewest protections and least access to legal resources. It also is committed to training the next generation of constitutional and human rights attorneys. CCR maintains a US and global focus in 14 areas of major concern such as torture, government surveillance, drone killings, discriminatory policing, racial injustice, Muslim profiling and others. Among its current cases it is seeking to hold former Bush Administration officials accountable for post 9/11 sweeps of Muslim, Arab and South Asian men for detention and abuse as well as attempting to hold a private US military contractor accountable for torture at Abu Gharib prison in Iraq. To receive CCR’s weekly newsletter, Frontlines for Justice, and learn of advocacy opportunities go here.
Unless the new global goals for sustainable development work for girls and women, they won’t work for anyone.

That’s the message that United Nations leaders, youth advocates, policymakers, journalists, and researchers are affirming this week at the Women Deliver conference. Even if you can’t be in Copenhagen, where the conversation will focus on how to implement the world’s new to-do list to drive progress for girls and women everywhere, you can be part of the global dialogue happening now.

When the Sustainable Development Goals were adopted in 2015, we knew that 2016 would be a year for moving from vision to action -- and that Women Deliver would be one of its critical moments. As the conference kicks off today, get inspired by visiting "Her Goals: Our Future," our collection of stories about the connections between girls and women and the global goals.

In 2007, Women Deliver began as a conference about maternal health, but it quickly evolved along with our understanding: If we want real change for girls and women, we need to make sure that they can not only survive, but thrive. By ensuring girls and women everywhere are safe, healthy, educated, and empowered, we can transform communities, nations, and our world.

The global goals are all interconnected, and girls and women are at their heart. Progress for girls and women leads to progress for the world, and this week’s conference could spark the momentum we need to get to work now, in our first year with these new goals.

Warmly from Copenhagen,
Daniela Ligero
Vice President of Girls and Women Strategy
United Nations Foundation
Refugee Organizations

UNA-GP is a strong supporter of the rights of refugees and the various organizations that support them. Our website currently has a page devoted to refugee organizations. One of them, the International Rescue Committee (IRC), is highlighted below:

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) addresses the needs of refugees and people in need around the globe. Working closely with UN agencies, IRC teams provide health care, infrastructure, learning and economic support to people in more than 40 countries, with special programs designed for women and children. IRC has been one of the key organizations responding to the global refugee crisis. This includes resettling thousands of refugees each year in 26 U.S. cities. IRC’s roots go back to 1933 when it was founded by Albert Einstein and others to aid those threatened by Nazi Germany. Originally it was called the International Relief Association. Examples of its wide array of programs today include: disaster relief, refugee aid and resettlement, basic medical care, reproductive health services, education of children and adults, provision of clean water and sanitation, business creation and support as well as direct cash assistance. In 2015, it provided assistance to approximately 23 million people. To receive regular information about IRC’s work and opportunities for advocacy go to their website.
Join us for the Annual Meeting, now known as the 2016 Leadership Summit, from June 12-14 at the National Education Association Building in Washington, DC. UNA-USA members from around the country will come together for three days packed with advocacy and action. You’ll meet with high-ranking U.S. Government and UN officials, learn from global experts, and urge Congress to make progress on key humanitarian issues.

Mark your calendar—this is a program not to miss!

See more information here, and click here to register.
Join us for the

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

General Membership Meeting

Agenda:

Association Business

~ Nominations of new UNA-GP Board Members
~ Approval of Bylaw changes of fiscal year and Board terms
~ Approval of interim July-December chapter budget

Guest Speaker

John Feffer, Director of Foreign Policy in Focus & author of Splinterlands

"Should We Still Worry About Nukes?"
The US and Iran have a new nuclear agreement. President Obama supports nuclear disarmament. Other global issues -- climate change, ISIS -- are demanding attention. Are nuclear weapons yesterday's crisis?

FRIENDS CENTER
RUFUS JONES ROOM
15TH & CHERY ST.
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19102

6/23/16
5:30PM

Light refreshments will be served!

For more information, email president@una-gp.org
HABITAT III

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.

Contact: info@una-gp.org

Any organization interested in presenting can download the Exhibition Guide for detailed information on participation at the Habitat III Exhibition.

THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HOUSING AND SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Quito, Ecuador, 17–20 October, 2016

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

<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>UNA-USA 2016 Leadership Summit</td>
<td>June 12-14th</td>
<td>Sunday - Tuesday</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>UNA-USA Annual Meeting, 3 days packed full of advocacy and action National Education Association Building, Washington DC See page 12 for details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNA-GP General Membership Meeting</td>
<td>June 23rd</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>5:30PM - 8:30PM</td>
<td>Topic: Nuclear disarmament/nuclear arms race. All are welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served! Rufus Jones Room, Friends Center 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia PA 19102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Garden Party</td>
<td>July 17th</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Afternoon</td>
<td>Late afternoon and evening in northwest Philadelphia. Watch for details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNA-GP Board Meeting</td>
<td>October 15th</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>10:00AM - 12:00PM</td>
<td>All are welcome to attend. Location TBD.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitat III</td>
<td>October 17-20th</td>
<td>Monday - Thursday</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>In Quito, Ecuador. See page 8.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Celebration of Human Rights Day</td>
<td>December 8th</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Evening</td>
<td>Human Rights Day is Dec 10, but that’s a Saturday, so we’ll plan an event for Thursday. Location and details TBD.</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 involved in, we are always in need of 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 questions any time at mpatel@una-gp.org.

The UNA-GP is in need of funds for upcoming projects. In order to continue our beneficial and enriching events, such as our Model United Nations conferences, we need your help! Please donate whatever you can to the UNA-GP, and in turn, Philadelphians and beyond!

The UNA-GP May 2016 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 American (UNA-USA). Our website offers information about our mission and upcoming events, and ways to get involved, including volunteering and becoming a member. Please take a look at our social media accounts and monthly newsletters!

Volunteers with all types of skill sets are welcome to work with the UNA-GP, short or long term. If interested, please contact Manisha Patel, Volunteer Coordinator and Board Member, at mpatel@ma-gp.org

www.facebook.com/UNAGP
www.twitter.com/UNAGP
www.una-gp.org