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Join us and other organizations and Philadelphians as we use sport as a tool to promote peace and tolerance
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Dear Members and Friends of UNA-GP,

I am trying to tap into what former President GHW Bush called "the vision thing" to envision at the national and global level some lifesaving progress and peaceful resolution of conflicts and the many desperate situations facing us and our companions on this planet. I am also trying to envision at the personal and local level the month of September with cooler breezes and new energy for the many events and actions planned for the fall. Last December the world celebrated the Paris signing of the agreement to combat Climate Change. Now we are sitting under the Heat Dome of the Eastern United States and enduring an election campaign that oscillates between denial that climate change exists and acceptance of the problem with no sense of urgency. Meanwhile thousands are out in the streets (fans and sunshades in hand) pleading for action before it gets even more too late!

The balance of 2016 will be packed with events and opportunities for education, speaking out, and taking action, even some for celebration with good friends and good food, many of them detailed in the pages of this newsletter: World Heritage City Day on Sept. 8th, the Concert for Peace on Sept. 17th, Philadelphia's Unity Cup Soccer Tournament, United Nations Day, Habitat III Conference in Ecuador, US Election day November 8th, and Human Rights Day honored on Dec.8th. Please have your calendar at hand and make your plans for the coming months. All UNA-GP events also welcome your volunteer involvement, so please be in touch if you could join in the planning and implementation of any of these.

In peace,

Mary Day

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United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, French Foreign Affairs Minister Laurent Fabius, and French President Francois Hollande at the World Climate Change Conference 2015

Photo: Reuters

Mary Day Kent, UNA-GP President
Following our annual garden party, where we heard of the personal experiences of those who were forced to flee for their lives, I reflected a bit on the global policies and political consequences of these modern involuntary migration streams. Never before in humanity have so many people been “on the run” at the same time. It is as if the whole population of the UK has abandoned their homes (and castles). Never before has there also been such a clear global sense of empathy, driven by the culture of globalization and the effects of Universal Human Rights. Help is organized on a global scale as never before, and we are aware of many organizations civil, multi-national and public that assist people who they have never met, and have never called neighbors.

They also never called neighbors those who are migrating across borders, following the demand for work. With those migrations, whether “voluntary” or as refugees, comes culture shock, adaptions among hosts and “guests” and thus a high level of cultural awaked-ness. Diversity is forced upon people, and not all are ready for that. Taboos are tested, politicians hear grumblings and the common market arena for peaceful co-existence gets tested. I am now in The Netherlands and the grumblings are loud and persistent. It may not bode well for those parties who were taking policy responsibility in confronting the world’s migration crises.

Meanwhile, there are structural issues to be addressed as well. When the average age of a refugee camp is 17 years, and when most of the refugees are housed in camps that are bigger than cities, in shelter facilities that are intended to be temporary but instead become lifelong residences, and not allowed to work or participate in the economy of the host country, these camps become cities of despair and entrenched poverty. And in the last year, when 42,500 new people sought shelter in these camps every day, the outflow to one of only 14 countries that have signed agreements with the
UNHCR is much lower indeed. The UN agencies and the NGOs involved can only provide shelter, food, and health care; they are restricted from providing law and order in those camps, cannot provide economic opportunities for the camp residents and cannot engage in infrastructure improvements that would make life, if not normal, at least a bit more humane.

Against that backdrop I was startled to read that, for the second time in just over six months, "a shortage of funds is forcing the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) to reduce the size of food rations temporarily for about half a million refugees living in the Dadaab and Kakuma camps in northern Kenya. Starting on Monday, refugees in the camps – most of whom come from Somalia and South Sudan – will receive 30 percent less food than usual. WFP expects that the ration cut will need to continue at least through September unless new funds become available very quickly. “We are very worried about how this cut may affect the people who rely on our assistance,” said Thomas Hansson, WFP’s Acting Country Director for Kenya. “But our food stocks are running out, and reducing the size of rations is the only way to stretch our supplies to last longer. We hope that this is only a temporary measure and we continue to appeal to the international community to assist.”

WFP distributes 9,300 metric tons of food for 500,000 refugees each month at a cost of US $9.6 million in the camps. Every two weeks, refugees collect a general food ration of cereals, pulses, vegetable oil, salt, and a nutrient-enriched flour made from soya and maize. Together, these provide 2,100 kilocalories per person per day, the recommended minimum energy intake. Starting on 15 June, the refugees’ daily food ration will contain a smaller quantity of cereals, and will provide only 1,520 kilocalories per day, a 30 percent decrease in their daily intake. WFP’s food stocks for refugees are dwindling, and although a substantial contribution of food is expected to arrive in time to meet part of the needs for October, it is possible that deeper cuts may be necessary in the coming months if no new resources arrive. If there is an immediate response from donors, however, WFP would be able to buy food available in the region and quickly transport it to the camps to reduce the impact of the cuts on refugees.

It really worries me that the political candidates in the current election spectacle of the U.S.A. as well as the mass media, even the media I like to believe to be global in their attention span, seem to ignore the human dramas unfolding overseas, and especially those dramas where the direct causes can be related to so many of our misguided foreign military adventures and interventions. Taking up a moral, unequivocal global leadership, but not dictatorship, is warranted.
A Few Words From Our Volunteer Coordinator

UNA-GP’s Membership Committee has been meeting regularly in preparation for this 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

The Carter Center

Founded in 1982 by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and former First Lady Rosalynn Carter, the Atlanta-based Carter Center has helped to improve the quality of life for people in more than 80 countries. The Center, in partnership with Emory University, is committed to advancing human rights and alleviating unnecessary human suffering. Its activities cover two broad areas: “Peace Programs” and “Health Programs”. While all its activities support human rights, the Center’s “Peace Programs” give special emphasis to activities such as democracy building, conflict resolution, support of human rights defenders and championing the rights of women and girls. The Center is explicitly committed to the goals of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and promotion of international law. Its work includes an emphasis on training teachers in the developing world to instruct students in their human rights. The Center offers a regular e-newsletter about its many initiatives, links to in-depth information from human rights experts and is connected to many forms of social media.
Villanova Students Document Plight of African Immigrants

By Louis Bolling

Last October, a group of Villanova University students traveled to Italy to document the trials and experiences of African immigrants.

The crew of 17 set out to tell the story of how immigrants struggle to overcome the social and political barriers that would lead to acceptance and opportunity within the Mediterranean coastline country.

Last month, in the Perelman Theater of the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, the students premiered their final product, a riveting, thought-provoking and timely film, Limbo.

“The making of Limbo was a learning experience from beginning to end,” said the film’s co-producer, Kyle Bowles. Under the auspices of Crosscurrent Pictures, the name the documentary class adopted for their working group, Limbo is an entirely student-run production guided by Villanova professor and executive producer, Hezekiah Lewis.

This article was originally published by The Philadelphia Tribune on May 4, 2016. Please visit their website for the full text.

Forced from Home Exhibit

Forced From Home is designed to raise public awareness about the experience of refugees and internally displaced people around the world. Organized and sponsored by Doctors Without Borders/Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), it is a traveling, interactive exhibit that will be in Philadelphia at Independence Mall from November 5-13, 2016. It is free and open to the public. Those attending can receive a guided tour from an experienced MSF staff person. The Philadelphia exhibit includes a free program at the Academy of Natural Sciences on “Medical Challenges for Displaced Populations” at 7:30 PM on November 10.

Registration for an exhibit tour and the November 10 event are available now on their website.
On a beautiful Sunday afternoon, over 75 adults, and a strong contingent of people under the age of 5, gathered for UNA-GP's annual garden party. Terrific outdoor atmosphere was provided at the home of Christiaan Morrsink and Shiriki Kumanyika. Attendees enjoyed good food and drinks as well as great conversation.

The central focus of the event was provided by three articulate and courageous refugees now living in the U. S.: Youssef Abbara from Syria, Matilda Sawie from Liberia and Adama Bangura from Sierra Leone. All three had arrived here as a result of horrific civil wars in their home countries.

Mr. Abbara, who has been in the U.S. for about 2 years, left the city of Homs to get away from the war and to avoid going into the military. He spent a year in Lebanon. Among his great concerns is the plight of Syrian refugee children who often go without education and are being forced to work to survive. Ms. Sawie described her family’s flight from Liberia into Guinea, struggles to survive such as walking 5 days without food, and 11 years of life in a UN Refugee camp before coming to the U. S. Ms. Bangura described her family’s experiences confronting violence and also her experience in a UN Refugee Camp for 4 years before coming to America.

The speakers shared heart-breaking and frightening stories. For example, both Ms. Sawie and Ms. Bangura witnessed and survived serious violence against women and their fathers were torn from their lives as a result of the civil wars. All three speakers expressed their strong desire to help other refugees and those in need through their new lives in the U. S. Mr. Abbaro currently works with a refugee assistance agency and also volunteers teaching children. Both Ms. Sawie and Ms. Bangura have graduated from Delaware County Community College. Ms. Sawie recently graduated from Temple University with a degree in Public Health and Ms. Bangura is on track to graduate in 2017 from Temple with a degree in Accounting.

Those attending the party were strongly moved by the experiences of the refugees as well the lively dialogue that ensued following their remarks. This included key actions that can be taken to assist refugees here and around the world.

Want more information? Visit our refugee information page and learn how to help here.
UNA-GP Academic Year Strategy

By Christiaan Morssink

This year we will again work with students from the Philadelphia area. Four students from last year’s team will return and we will recruit six more. Our collaboration regarding this “workforce” with the Global Water Alliance will expand this year to include the Madrugadores Chapter of the Rotary Club of North Philadelphia. We have also a multitude of collaborations with other entities around programmatic development, foremost the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority in regards to our educational outreach, the Fairmount Water Works, peace related groups like Peace Action, Peace Day Philly, and of course Harmony for Peace, but overseas programmatic collaborations are not to be forgotten, such as the work in Ghana with the Yonso Project, the Kenya outreach through the Keiyo Soy Ministries, and the relationships with H2Ofor Life for overseas service learning. In all, our work is possible through the active input from our members and these students and interns.

In this year we hope that we can get these students deeply involved in our programs and projects to the point that their studies and careers will be shaped by them. They will work as a team and always seek input from members. Their calendar of work runs as follows:

• Meet and greet and set up a routine in early September; to be followed almost immediately with assisting during the Harmony for Peace Concert at the Kimmel Center on September 17. Some of them will also assist at the September 18 event “We Grow Where We Are: Photos, Paintings and Words of Syrian Refugee Children” that we co-sponsor at the Ethical Society.

• Development of lesson plans and marketing of three Model UN Conferences for high schools, to be followed with preparing students at high schools for:
  2. Conference on the Rule of Law, on Saturday, February 25, 2017: Tentative topic: Law-enforcement (maintenance) and the Rule of Law; when injustice occurs.
  3. Conference on Disarmament: on Saturday March 25, 2017: Tentative topic: Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and the UN Treaty to regulate international small arms trade

Assisting with planning, marketing and implementing activities around several “awareness” days

• UN Day, October 24, 2016. This year we will have a dialogue/forum/speakers, and we intend to create a special membership meeting to formalize the change in calendar from academic to Gregorian/annual/ whatever you call it. We hope to have a bit of a reception in honor of the 71st anniversary of the UN and the new Secretary General.

• World Toilet Day on November 19, collaboration with the Fairmount Water Works and the Global Water Alliance. The focus is on providing a throne for each among us, and on the need to re-think the habits of ‘flush and forget about it”.

• Human Rights Day will be held this year on December 8 at the Ethical Society. The topic will be the Right to Education: pitfalls around equity and funding, with special attention to the education of girls.

• International Women’s Day. March 8, 2017. This tradition will be maintained and held at IHouse, in collaboration with IHouse, WomensCampaignInternational, UPenn Department of Women’s Studies and others. The actual date of the event may be different than the 8th.

• World Water Day, March 22. Fundraising event on campus

• Earth Day, April 22. Workshop on new thinking about our relationship with Mother Earth and the sustenance that humanity needs to derive from her.
Unity Cup 2016

The United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia and its Sport for Development & Peace committee are proud to support the upcoming soccer competition, the 2016 Philadelphia International Unity Cup.

When you bring people together around one commonality, it’s the foundation for an important cultural exchange and understanding that increases tolerance across the city," stated Mayor Jim Kenney.

Mayor Kenney’s idea is the guiding philosophy behind the first ever Unity Cup tournament made up of the many diverse immigrant communities across Philadelphia.

Billed as the Philadelphia Unity Cup, the competition will take place in communities at local recreation center facilities closest to the team neighborhoods starting in September.

The tournament ends with a final championship game on November 5 at Citizens Bank Park. All games, including the championship game, are free of charge to spectators.

The UNA-GP Sport for Development & Peace uses sport as a platform to promote peace, education, health, cross-cultural engagement and community development.

Sport as a universal language can be a powerful tool to promote peace, tolerance and understanding by bringing people together across boundaries, cultures and religions. Its intrinsic values such as teamwork, fairness, discipline, respect for the opponent and the rules of the game are understood all over the world and can be harnessed in the advancement of solidarity, social cohesion and peaceful coexistence.

Although sport alone cannot stop or solve an acute conflict, it represents a flexible and cost-effective medium for post-conflict relief work and peace building, as well as conflict prevention.

Unity Cup 2016: Volunteers Wanted!

We are looking for individual volunteers along with volunteer groups from local organizations to help with the Philadelphia International Unity Cup. Games kick off on September 9 and run each weekend up to and including October 21. The Championship will take place at Citizens Bank Ballpark on November 5, and volunteers will help with ball snagging, greeting, directing cars, and attending parking.

Volunteer Locations Include:
- Ramp Playground, 3300 Solly Ave.
- 11th and Cecil B Moore Field
- 11th and Bigler Streets
- LaSalle University
- Citizens Bank Ballpark

Benefits of Volunteering:
- Each volunteer receives an exclusive Unity Cup Volunteer T-shirt
- Being a part of an inaugural Philadelphia event that unites immigrant communities
- Community service hours for school credit are available!

Requirements to Volunteer:
- All volunteers must be 14 years old or older
- All individuals in your group must register and sign a waiver
- Enthusiasm during your assignment

How to Volunteer:
1. Individuals complete the volunteer registration here.
2. Or groups register here.
3. Every volunteer must complete a volunteer waiver.
4. You will receive an email with confirmation of your assignment and details on when and where to report.

Feel free to pass this information on to any organizations or clubs that might be interested in this opportunity. You can also visit our volunteer webpage.

More info or questions? Contact us at 215-683-1997 or unitycupvolunteers@gmail.com, or check out the website.

United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia | 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102
International Peace Day Concert 2016

Join us to Promote Peace Worldwide

Saturday, September 17, 2016   Door 5 p.m.   Curtain 5:30 p.m.

Verizon Hall, Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

Harness the Power of Music to End Conflict and Violence

Join us • Únete a nosotros • Rejoignez-nous • Unisciti a noi • begleiten Sie uns • 加入

William Shimell, Actor Baritone (UK)

Yoonhak Baek, Conductor (Republic of Korea)

Gohei Nishikawa, piano (Japan)

TICKETS - Kimmel Center Box Office, www.kimmelcenter.org

United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia | 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102
WE GROW WHERE WE ARE:
PHOTOS, PAINTINGS, AND WORDS BY SYRIAN REFUGEE YOUTH

SUNDAY, SEP 18 // 6-8PM
PHILADELPHIA ETHICAL SOCIETY
1906 S. RITTENHOUSE SQ.

SUGGESTED DONATION $5-10
PHOTOS AND ARTWORK FOR SALE WITH
100% PROCEEDS GOING TO REFUGEE COMMUNITY

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE BY FARAH SIRAJ,
NAMED JORDAN’S “MUSICAL AMBASSADOR”
FOOD & DRINK PROVIDED

Philadelphia resident presents
youth expression, video footage, and his
experience working with a Syrian refugee
community in Lebanon—a community
determined to plant the seeds of education
for their country’s future.

This event is part of Peace Day Philly,
the local initiative for the International
Day of Peace. For more info & events,
visit peacedayphilly.org

“We will return to you, Syria, my love and my life.”
—Quitayba, age 14
Dear fellow activists,

It is my sincere pleasure to invite you to this year's Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference. Join us on October 8, 2016, as we stand shoulder to shoulder in the great city of Philadelphia to make a lasting human rights impact. The Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference brings together hundreds of Amnesty members and other human rights activists from around the country. With our Regional Conference Planning Committee and Regional Office as co-hosts, together we will continue our tradition of engaging in networking opportunities, inspiring plenaries, outstanding keynotes, and hands-on skill-building workshops, as well as shaping the policies of the organization.

Through interactive programs and workshops, exceptional speakers and engaging exhibits, the Regional Conference will facilitate discussions about human rights issues in the United States and around the world and motivate us to take action. As activists, we will be challenged to initiate change within our own communities. This will only happen with you – we need you there!

REGISTER NOW!

Stay Connected and Get Conference Updates First!
1. Like us on Facebook
2. Follow us on Twitter at @AIUSAMARO
3. RSVP and Share the Facebook Event
4. Check out the webpage for travel information, subsidy forms and more!
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><strong>International Unity Cup Tournament Kickoff</strong></td>
<td>September 9th</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>6:30PM - 10:00PM</td>
<td>Kickoff games for the International Unity Cup Soccer Tournament. 6:30PM - Mexico v. Vietnam 8:30 PM - Ireland vs. USA Location: Ramp Playground 3300-40 Solly Ave, Philadelphia PA 19136. Full tournament schedule <a href="#">here</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>International Peace Day Concert 2016</strong></td>
<td>September 17th</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Doors open at 5:00PM, Curtain at 5:30PM</td>
<td>Presented by Harmony for Peace. Join us to promote peace worldwide. Location: Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts 300 S Broad Street, Philadelphia PA 19102 More information and tickets <a href="#">here</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>We Grow Where We Are: Refugee Exhibition</strong></td>
<td>September 18th</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>6:00PM - 8:00PM</td>
<td>Photos, paintings, and words by Syrian refugee youth. Photos and artwork for sale with 100% proceeds going to refugee community. Location: Philadelphia Ethical Society 1906 S. Rittenhouse Sq, Philadelphia PA 19103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Official Peace Day Philly Events</strong></td>
<td>September 18th - 24th</td>
<td>Various Times</td>
<td></td>
<td>Full calendar <a href="#">here</a>. Examples include Yoga for Peace, film screening, sing along, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Amnesty International Regional Conference</strong></td>
<td>October 8th</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference in Philadelphia. Register <a href="#">here</a>.</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 September 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