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Dear Members and Friends of UNA-GP,

Every day seems to bring another horror of war and violence, and I find that the UN and all the many voluntary organizations and dedicated individuals who work on behalf of peace and sharing are the hopes that I cling to. Our United Nations Day meeting, October 24th, will highlight the connections between peacekeeping at our immediate local level and the international peacekeeping done by the UN and its "Blue Helmets". Please put this on your calendar!

One of the questions that we always get asked about our UN Association work is "why care?" To answer this I want to share with you the message that my counterpart in San Francisco, Pablo Castro of the UN Association there, put in his most recent letter to members and which he has generously given permission for me to pass on:

Some years ago, there was a tribe that traveled from one site of their country to another. When the change of season approached, it was time to pack everything up and simply move with their families and go. Their children had never gone to school. Since the tribe constantly moved, no school was built. Well, there was a “solution”: a school bus was provided with a teacher, books and educational material so that children could learn while traveling. This is one very simple but significant example of what the United Nations does around the world.

In the meantime, in another part of the planet, the UN is trying to gain access to starving families that live under the rubble and ruins of Syrian cities. Convoys of vehicles with food, medical supplies, and tents are waiting for a cease fire so that they can get to places where children are eating leaves that they find around the ruins. Yet, in South Sudan, UN “blue helmets” are protecting families from rebels that kill, rape, and take hostages.

Hundreds of families around the world are now living in refugee camps set up by the UN where several agencies take care of them. UNHCR sets up the camps and organizes the tents, sanitation, etc. UNICEF takes care of the children; the World Health

United Nations Peacekeeping troops in Syria
Photo: Endtime.com
Organization (WHO) works on vaccinations. Food is provided by another UN department. The camps are guarded by UN Peace Forces that come from different countries and are authorized by the Security Council. All these are examples of the valuable work done by United Nations.

How is it conceivable that some people are opposed to funding the United Nations? Why do our UNA chapters need to write to congress, asking them to approve funds needed to sustain UN humanitarian missions on a global scale?

Unfortunately, it may be more difficult in 2017 to fund our legal dues to the UN because we may end up with a different president of the United States. At a time when more funding is needed due to the global situation on refugees, war and disasters, we must give some thought to these challenges and exercise our voting privileges and elect those who clearly support the UN and its valuable work. We have a responsibility, a duty to our fellow humans in the world. Though we know how busy we are trying to support our families, please spare some time to vote conscientiously in November; bring a friend.

THE FUTURE DEPENDS ON US

I hope to see many of you on October 24th and other peace events in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Mary Day

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

A Few Words From Our Executive Director

Being back from South Africa less than a fortnight ago, I was going to write about my impressions of Cape Town, where a visitor is immediately exposed to the long history of white dominance, the enormity of black poverty in the so-called informal economy, and the emerging black dominance of the public administration. I was going to write about the many housing projects underway, where, with deadly repetitiveness, homes are being built that are a clear improvement over the illegal settlements, but where we can predict already the next forms of alienation and sustained deprivations. There is a class struggle clearly visible, where the proletariat is poised against the underclasses and the bourgeoisie will breed large dogs, built large gates and enjoy the swimming pools and golf courses behind high walls. Cape Town is indeed a beautiful city, if you choose to ignore to see the poverty and the cultural leftovers of apartheid.

But I am not going to talk about that. Instead, I am going to talk about how we in Philadelphia are going to keep working on breaking down these separations as seen in Cape Town. How UNA-GP is connecting with others in the city to create welcoming scenarios, how we connect the desires for peace in the Middle East and many parts in Africa with the peace we need in our streets and homes. How we are going to work towards making our youth into global citizens, full of empathy for the wretched of the earth and eager to dispel human misery from our cities and towns. And in that context, we will indeed urge them to vote wisely and understand that voting is a right, a duty, and a hope.

So we have a new team of students to partake in our dreams of making
Philadelphia not only a World Heritage City, but also a city that shines brightly on the world stage of humanity as a hub of positive energy for development and equity in addressing human need. The team is ‘gelling’, they have a few instructions about education, awareness raising, and advocacy and our first events are behind us. We assisted at the concert of Harmony for Peace, we attended a day later the exhibition: We Grow Where We Are, sponsored by the Peace Day Philly movement. As I write this, mediation for peace is being practiced, and I just sponsored the T-shirts for the youth soccer tournament that will be held on Saturday, this time promoting peace through sports. Talking about soccer, I just noted at the Brown Sugar restaurant, that Jamaica is doing very well in the new Unity Cup, winning with large numbers and not allowing any goals. It makes me happy to see the celebration of our ethnicities and roots replacing the old struggles for dominance and ethnocentric myopia. I will definitely attend a few games of this tournament, in between my travels.

Yesterday, President Obama spoke at the General Assembly of the UN. Yesterday, a UN relief convoy destined for Aleppo (“what is Aleppo?”) was attacked by airstrikes. Yesterday, riots broke out in Charlotte, NC, following another police shooting of a black man. Yesterday, two Dutch police officers will be prosecuted for murder during an arrest; and yesterday, in Kinshasa more than 17 people died during demonstrations against the government. I am taking it all in and enjoy working for good in Philadelphia. See you all on UN Day if not before.
**Spotlight on Human Rights**

**The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)**

The ACLU was founded after World War I. This was in response to thousands of Americans being labelled as “radicals” and subsequently arrested without warrants or regard for constitutional protections against unlawful search and seizure. Known as the “Palmer Raids” after then Attorney General Mitchell Palmer, those arrested were brutally treated and held in horrible conditions. A small group of lawyers formed the ACLU in response to these raids to protect basic rights. The ACLU today has more than 500,000 members, nearly 200 staff attorneys and thousands of volunteer lawyers. There are many chapters in the US, including one in Philadelphia. The ACLU’s work incorporates an explicit commitment to holding the US accountable to international human rights laws and standards as well rights guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution. Currently they are involved in issues such as immigrant and LGBT rights, protecting whistle blowers, holding the CIA accountable for torture and many others. They see themselves as part of a reemerging movement of U.S.-based organizations that use the international human rights framework in domestic rights advocacy. The ACLU offers regular online updates and opportunities to take action via their website.

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**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, UNA-GP Volunteer Coordinator

Manisha Patel
mpatel@una-gp.org
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.

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.
Meet Our 2016-2017 Student Team

UNA-GP is lucky to have several students from Greater Philadelphia colleges and universities working with us this academic year. Learn about them below, and feel free to say hello when you see them at various UNA-GP events!

Luis Bravo
Luis is a sophomore at the University of Pennsylvania currently pursuing a degree in Sociology. As an aspiring attorney, the legal world is of significant intrigue to him. He is also an avid supporter of fine arts; he loves all kinds of music and enjoys playing piano in his spare time.

Carolyn Curry
Carolyn is a senior at the University of Pennsylvania majoring in Economics and International Relations. As a child she spent summers with her mother’s family in Böblingen, Germany, and has always been interested in how individuals and groups with different identities interact. She plans to begin her career in international marketing when she graduates in May 2017.

Jed Dale
Jed is a junior geology major from a sandbar off the coast of New York. He is passionate about both the science and policy of the field with a particular interest in nuclear nonproliferation and sea level rise.

Nathan Kok
Nathan hails from the San Francisco Bay Area, and is a current junior studying Cognitive Science and Computer Science at the University of Pennsylvania. On campus, he is involved in TEDxPenn, Penn Lions, and Grace Covenant Church. Nathan will be joining the UNAGP team to help build its online presence and initiatives with web development.
Meet Our 2016-2017 Student Team

Meriem Messaoudi
Meriem is a sophomore at the University of Pennsylvania where she intends to study International Relations and Political Communications. She is involved with the Society for International Development, Penn Democrats, and the Penn Association for Gender Equity. She also serves as the Director of UN-Habitat for the National High School Model UN Conference in New York City.

Kate Samuelson
Kate is a senior studying Political Science (B.A.) and Public Administration (M.P.A.). She is president of Penn Childhood Cancer Coalition, president of Penn Women's Political League, VP (external) of Penn Synchronized Swimming, social chair of JStage, and a dancer for Penn Yalla. She also works on research at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and Penn's School of Social Policy and Practice.

Mena Shabab
Mena is a student at the University of Pennsylvania studying Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations and Political Science. She is a Philadelphia native, and her life motto is "Live and Give."

Emma Shenton
Emma is a sophomore at the University of Pennsylvania. She is hoping to major in both Urban Studies and Earth Science (with an Environmental Science concentration). Emma thinks it is important to learn more about both global and domestic issues and the way in which different social justice issues intersect with one another.

Betty Tran
Betty is a graduate student pursuing an MS in Nonprofit Leadership at Penn's Social Policy and Practice School. She received her BA from the University of Southern California. Betty has provided Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, and Vietnamese speaking community members with social services through many nonprofits in the San Francisco Bay Area and Los Angeles. She is passionate about poverty alleviation, international development, human migration, world cultures, and languages.
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](#).
Join Amnesty International Mid-Atlantic members at the 2016 Regional Conference in Philadelphia, PA

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!

United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia | 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102
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>Amnesty International Regional</td>
<td>October 8th</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference in Philadelphia. Register <a href="#">here</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Times</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitat III</td>
<td>October 17-20th</td>
<td>Monday - Thursday</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>Habitat III will be one of the first global conferences after the Post 2015 Development Agenda. It will chart new pathways in response to the challenges of urbanization and the opportunities it offers for the implementation of the sustainable development goals. Location: Quito, Ecuador</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNA-GP Membership and Board Meeting</td>
<td>October 24th</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Evening</td>
<td>All members are welcome to attend. Location: 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia PA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Celebration of Human Rights Day</td>
<td>December 8th</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Evening</td>
<td>Details and location TBD. Human Rights Day is December 10th, but because it is a Saturday we are planing an event for Thursday.</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 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 October 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@una-gp.org

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