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Dear Members and Friends of UNA-GP,

Since this note may not be published until after the election, it feels somewhat like a message in a bottle, a venture into the unknown. All plans and commitments have an element of faith -- not in the religious sense, but a faith in the value of continuing to build organizations, communities, laws and principles, the value of learning and acting on knowledge, all ideas that should not be controversial but have become politicized in recent years. Halloween always reminds me of fundraising for UNICEF as a child, along with the candy-collecting. My Republican grandparents enthusiastically shepherded me around with my orange coinbox for UNICEF. They also took me into New York to visit the UN Headquarters.

My grandfather was a veteran of World War I with three sons who had been in the military during World War II and the Korean War: the value of peace was very real to them.

The darkening days of fall bring worry and pessimism, but also a season of new leadership and new energy at all levels. The UN has a new Secretary General (the subject of Christiaan Morssink's column elsewhere in this newsletter), the US will have a new President, many of us will have new representatives in Washington, and even this UNA chapter will have a turnover of leadership for our organization, a subject of next month's newsletter!

As the outgoing chapter President, I want to express my gratitude to all the Board members and hardworking regular members, student interns, and volunteers, who keep our amazing number of projects going. One of the benefits of attending the national meeting of the UNA is the revelation of how comparatively much we somehow manage to do here in Philadelphia, pulling the budget out of the air but never running out of ideas or dedicated people to carry them out. I look forward to supporting our new officers and hope that everyone in our membership will consider the idea of stepping up to the Board and volunteering with the project of your passion.

With persistent hope for peace,

Mary Day

Mary Day Kent, UNA-GP President
So it will be another man after all who is replacing Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon. In 2012 and 2013, I emphasized that the women's movements in the world, among them the UNA-USA women groups, had better start campaigning right away, as it would be an uphill battle (still) in the global arena of political wheeling and dealing. Campaigning they did, but late and without a clear and favorite candidate. Thus, another man got elected. So be it. However, the election process that led to the appointment of Antonio Guterres was a most refreshing and transparent improvement over the ways of old.

Most people will applaud Guterres as the first secretary general who was ever a head of state; or they will applaud his hard work as the former UN High Commissioner for Refugees. I however applaud him for his participation in the Carnation Revolution in Portugal in 1974, where masses of young civilians embraced a military uprising against a repressive dictatorship with flowers and supportive mass-demonstrations. He was a principal among many young socialists (under the leadership of Soares)
From Christiaan's Desk

A Few Words From Our Executive Director

who build a real democracy in Portugal, and in doing so, ended the wars of independence of Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau. That feat makes me very appreciative of Guterres and I have great hopes for a most productive, human rights focused, tenure as Secretary General of the United Nations.

While I am writing this quick note, I am also prepping for a short talk about peace keeping and public health, to be delivered at our UN Day Celebration on Monday, the 24th. In reviewing the materials and reading opinions, it becomes pretty clear that the majority of negative views about the United Nations relate to the work of the Security Council and the work of the Blue Helmets. Indeed, we can, and must, pay attention to these hallmark operations of the UN, become better informed about the complexities of their work and learn to ground our expectations about the UN in the murky wheeling and dealing of the real-politics of 194 actors, including those of the USA itself. In that light, Obama’s willingness to work with the UN is appreciated by these actors, but they all have long memories, and the words of John Bolton as well as the US sidestepping of the Security Council in 2003 are not forgotten. Let’s hope that the next president of the USA (and the congress for that matter) will stay positive towards multilateral approaches in foreign policy and work constructively with and within the United Nations.
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

Mary Robinson Foundation - Climate Justice

The Mary Robinson Foundation-Climate Justice (MRF-CJ) was founded by Mary Robinson, former president of Ireland and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. Based in Ireland, MRF-CJ, works to address the human rights impact of climate change. The Foundation is a leading global voice on behalf of climate change refugees, women’s leadership on gender and climate change and the risks faced by future generations from inequality and poverty as they are linked to the climate. Under Ms. Robinson’s leadership, MRF-CJ convenes key actors to address climate change and bridges gaps between groups and individuals who otherwise would not connect. MRF-CJ also provides creative thought leadership on how to address climate change, such as its Principles of Climate Justice. Among the Foundation's key priorities is fostering the successful implementation of recommended actions from the December 2015 Paris Agreement at the UN Global Convention on Climate Change. MRF-CJ is a rich resource for all those interested in the practical aspects of work to improve the climate as well as putting justice and equity at the heart of the response to climate change.
Human Rights Day 2016: The Right to Education

Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) speaks to the right of all people to a quality education. As this struggle plays out across the world, and here in Philadelphia, UNA-GP is dedicating its annual recognition of the UDHR, signed in 1948, to this fundamental right.

On Thursday, December 8, from 5:30 to 8 PM, UNA-GP has organized a program for this purpose at the Ethical Society of Philadelphia, 1906 Rittenhouse Square. Andrea Townrow from Women’s Campaign International will speak on their work educating future leaders around the globe. Local leadership perspectives on this struggle will be provided by Philadelphia City Councilwoman Helen Gym as well as representatives of POWER (Philadelphians Organized to Witness, Empower and Rebuild), a grass-roots, interfaith group with a strong presence in the fight for fair funding for all of Pennsylvania’s school districts. The program is free with light refreshments and cash bar.

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/Médécins Sans Frontières (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. It includes the film: *Frontline Doctors: Winter Migration Crisis* plus Q & A with MSF staff.

Registration for an exhibit tour and the November 10 event is available now online.
World Toilet Day

Annual Fundraising for Global Water Alliance
“An Ode to the Throne”

Thursday, November 17, 2017 | 6-8PM
Venice Island Pump Station & Theater
Lock Street in Manayunk

~Agenda~
Welcome & Reception
Tour
The underground storm water collection system of Venice Island
Presentation of the Composting Toilet
Discuss its pros/cons, costs, and scalability
Report
Publication of the first 10 years of GWA
Upcoming events:
10th GWA Conference in Kolkata (Jan 4-7, 2017)
Workshop on Waste Water, April 5, 2017

Buffet & Live Music

Open to the public
Free but Donations Encouraged
Online Registration Requested

For more information, contact info@globalwateralliance.net
640 Water Works Drive, Philadelphia, PA 19130
JOIN US IN RECOGNIZING

EDUCATION:
OUR HUMAN RIGHT
AND ALL RIGHTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Be informed about the progress and struggle for quality public education on the global and local level. Presentations as well as Q&As will allow you to offer up your voice on this issue. Free to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

Speakers
Helen Gym, Philadelphia City Councilwoman
Philadelphia Public Education: Organizing for Justice and Equity
Sheila Armstrong & David Mosenkis, Representatives of POWER
Public Education: The Struggle for Fair Funding
Andrea Townrow, Women’s Campaign International
Educating Future Leaders Around the Globe

DECEMBER 8, 2016 | 5:30-8PM
ETHICAL SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA
1906 RITTENHOUSE SQUARE PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

ORGANIZED ANNUALLY BY THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT INFO@UNA-GP.ORG OR GO TO UNA-GP.ORG
## 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>GenUN Social</td>
<td>November 12th</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>5PM - 7PM</td>
<td>Join us at a social event to meet and network with others involved with the UN! Location: The ARCH, Room 108, 3601 Locust Walk, Philadelphia PA 19104</td>
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<tr>
<td>World Toilet Day</td>
<td>November 17th</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>6PM - 8PM</td>
<td>Annual fundraising event for Global Water Alliance Location: Venice Island Pump Station &amp; Theater 640 Water Works Drive, Philadelphia PA 19130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Celebration of Human Rights Day</td>
<td>December 8th</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>5:30PM - 8PM</td>
<td>Topic: Rights to Education Speakers include Andrea Townrow from Women's Campaign International, Councilwoman Helen Gym, and representatives from POWER (Philadelphians organized to witness, empower, and rebuild) Attendance is free Light refreshments will be served. Cash Bar Location: Ethical Society of Philadelphia, 1906 Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia PA</td>
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</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,

The UNA-GP November 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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