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Stay abreast of the UN five days per week with UN Wire. You can receive it free in your inbox here.
When done writing a message, I like to vary the last salute. Respectfully and Sincerely I almost never use, and I like “cheers” or “cheers, nevertheless”. I am most fond, though, of that word “onward”.

Onward. I like that word. I read from it that the struggle is never ending, that peace is a journey, just like each life. I read “onward” as the conclusion of a moment of reflection in that struggle, in that journey. Onward gives a progressive meaning to the cycles of thesis, antithesis, synthesis. Onward is BIG Picture thinking. Onward implies that nothing is perfect, no utopia exists. As long as you are alive, you are marching, riding, rolling, and always together, arm in arm, shoulder to shoulder. Onward means goals, like equal rights and equal opportunities, dignity for all humans, rule of law for each and all, respect for individuals and “others”, embracing social and personal responsibilities. I like ONWARD.

As we move onward, I don’t mind arguing and disagreeing over pathways and methods, and speed, division of labor, who will take the lead and who will attend to the midfield and how to help those in the rear. That’s what a good democracy is all about. We all read the facts, we all exist on one planet, we may all interpret facts differently. We can even use power in those arguments, most specifically the power of truly democratic representation.

The United Nations System is a set of arenas and platforms where ONWARD is applied, and the arguments and disagreements can be forceful, even painful. However, in that UN System democratic representation and procedures are lacking, as lamented by Ban Ki-Moon in December. Our new United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres was silent on that topic when he said he is committed to improving the UN’s effectiveness in reducing global conflicts and
will simplify UN management to improve accountability and flexibility. So: Onward with making the UN System better.

Backwards. I like that word. I read from it a fear for the journey, a falling back to power formations of old, in which the comfort of knowing your ascribed place (in the kitchen, in the fields, in the food lines, in your mansion, on your yacht) is well understood as a carefully calibrated system of privileges and stratification, in which you remember your place, however uncomfortable, and those of others. Backwards is for those who fear the unknown that comes with embracing the universal rights of others, fear of the complexities of a globalized world. It is for those who see the “other” as enemy, as negative. It’s not caring about who lives downstream, in the other valley. Backwards reflects primitive thinking. Backwards is a clear word.

We have entered a period, I am afraid, of backwardness in the American political power structures. Utterings like “voting rights for homeowners” only, denying facts, curtailing science, building walls (how incredibly primitive), re-introducing torture as an interrogation tool, scapegoating new minorities, all indicate backward forces. Forces that currently seem to be at play in the executive branch and expressed by several in the halls of Congress. If all that would just be a struggle between groups of constituents in this US of A, so be it. However, this US of A has a most dramatic influence on the welfare of humanity, through its Nuclear Weapons arsenal, its oversized impact on the human contribution to global warming, its military presence in so many countries and through the role of the US Dollar in the economic affairs of other nations. Primitive thinking in the halls of power in the US of A will have incredible consequences for us in Philadelphia, for us in the whole world. I believe that the UNA-GP is an onward organization. Let us stand up to primitive thinking.
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 programs. They grow local support for United Nations ideals and its work in Philadelphia's community.

Manisha Patel, UNA-GP President

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Spotlight on Human Rights

Human Rights Watch

Human Rights Watch (HRW) was formally created in 1988. Predecessor “Watch” groups, addressing abuses in Soviet Bloc countries, Central America and elsewhere, date back to 1975. Today, with a staff of 400, HRW has 21 offices in the U.S., Europe, Africa, Asia, South America, Australia and the Middle East. HRW conducts regular, systematic investigations of human rights abuses around the world. It actively researches, reports, and advocates for change in more than 90 countries. Among its key missions is to inform United Nations officials and member states about human rights issues and influence related UN policies. HRW is one of the strongest and most reliable advocates for a very broad range of human rights. The organization's research and insights in at least 14 major topic areas are relied upon globally by human rights activists and government officials concerned with justice. Each year HRW publishes a World Report assessing human rights progress around the globe, including the United States. The 2017 report's theme is “Demagogues Threaten Human Rights”. Anyone interested can receive a weekly newsletter and other information from Human Rights Watch via their website.

Human Rights Watch has won the 2008 United Nations Prize for Human Rights, in recognition of the vital role played by the human rights movement in trying to end abuses. The Nobel Peace Prize is indirect, as the HRW is a founding member of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, which got the prize in 1998.
Reflections on Sustainable Solutions to Poverty

Emma Shenton is a sophomore at Penn. UNA-GP sponsored Emma to attend a conference called Opportunity Collaboration in Mexico in October 2016. This is an annual conference in which 400 global leaders come together to discuss sustainable solutions to poverty. Emma will give a presentation centered around her experiences and her takeaways from the conference. The presentation will be an interactive discussion that will touch upon the intersecting aspects of poverty, the symptoms of poverty versus the root causes, and the ways in which both individual and organizational intentions and impact do not always align with one another.

Board Member Spotlight: Bob Groves

Bob Groves has been a member of UNA-GP since 2005. In 2012 he became a board member. As a political activist, dating back to the late 1960s, he always considered himself something of a UN supporter and “internationalist”. However, he realized he had a lot of catching up to do to really learn about and impact global issues. Linking more closely with the UN, an organization he had “long admired from afar”, was a good way to move forward.

Bob has masters’ degrees in Urban Studies and Public Health. He spent over 40 years working in leadership roles in health and human services. He retired in 2011. Since then he has taken a great interest in the field of human rights. He teaches 2 courses of his own creation on this topic at Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Temple University: Human Rights in the 21st Century and A Human Rights Film Festival. Bob also does human rights presentations in other community locations. He devotes some of his UNA-GP time to writing the “Spotlight on Human Rights” feature for the monthly newsletter. In addition, he organizes the annual recognition event each December honoring the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Annual events in recent years have focused on the right to education, the value of a free press and supporting refugees.

In addition to UNA-GP, Bob is active on the board of the Greater Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger. He is also a member of Amnesty International and the ACLU. Outside such activities, he highly recommends being a grandfather, center city living and traveling outside Philly to interesting places in the US and elsewhere.
Alert, Alert, Alert, Alert, Alert, Alert.

A call to our members and friends to recognize the plea from Eleanor Roosevelt: Keep our politicians deeply and constructively involved in multilateral organizations in order to prevent next wars and abuses of human rights. Step up to action AGAIN AND AGAIN And AGAIN. Do get tired, do NOT retire.

From a note from Chris Whatley, CEO of UNA-USA:

“…Among the flurry of Executive Orders coming out of the White House this week will be one calling to both slash UN funding and prevent the US from entering into treaties such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Frankly, I find it shocking that that the administration would take this move just 24 hours after Ambassador Haley’s confirmation (who testified against “slashing and burning” UN funding) and less than a week after the Womens’ March. We will be sending out a full advocacy action alert tomorrow morning asking all members to call, email, and tweet the White House directly to oppose this short sighted move. We need to work with this administration, no matter what, but when it takes decisions that directly imperil the cause we exist to support we won’t hesitate to stand up and be counted…”

In a reaction from Rosemary Blanchard of the Albuquerque Chapter:

“...It appears that the Trump Administration is preparing to make a wholesale assault on the United Nations and on the United States' role in and relationship with that body. According to the New York Times, https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/25/us/politics/united-nations-trump-administration.html, the President is preparing to sign a couple of executive orders massively cutting back funds for the United Nations, refusing to provide any funds to UN bodies that take stands that the administration disagrees with, and considering the unilateral abrogation of major treaties that the US has ratified. I urge you to read the NYT article…”

To which Rita Maran, from the East Bay Advocacy team added:

“.... numerous little DJT explosive devices will be tossed out into civil society regularly & randomly. Such purposeful actions may be designed to keep civil society’s fields of action punctured to the point of becoming unmanageable. ... Yes, to immediate collective UNA action to put out the UN-directed fires - Yes, also, to action taken consciously and with recognition of the likelihood of unceasing and unpredictable disruptions likely to follow. That certainly includes our planning for the Day on the Hill. .. Yes, also, to taking action without - for a moment - losing track of the guidance that comes from the principles of the Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
UNA-GP hosted an alternative #ModelUN to address issues of water and sanitation to promote human rights and environmental justice. Our work-study team prepared three lesson plans and formatted them as online seminars. They researched the topic in detail, recruited students from seven high schools and managed the conference from conception to dissemination.
Educational Activities of the UNA-GP

The UNA-GP organizes several activities each year, geared towards high and middle school students and teachers, with the intent to globalize the mindset of our next generation and promote Philadelphia as a cosmopolitan city of diversity, co-existence, and dynamic embrace of global solidarity. Brotherly Love on a Global Scale.

A. Alternative Model United Nations Conferences. Our MUNs are small scale, interschool affairs of 80 to 120 high school students, who debate a problem that is relevant for our region and city, and place that problem in a global context. The conferences are as real as possible in that we seek to motivate the participants to write a petition, create a letter of support for one policy initiative or another, develop an advocacy text, etc.

We urge the participating students to stay civically engaged by forming clubs and organizing service projects.

For the academic year (2017-18) we are planning:

a. MUN on water stewardship, using the UN WATER organization as our reference
b. MUN on the Rule of Law, using the World Justice Project and the UN Rule of Law as references
c. Workshop on Disarmament: using the UN Treaty on the Trade of Small Arms as reference
d. MUN on Global Public Health: a new MUN based on the work of Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) re Zika and West Nile Virus

B. Youth Building Roots program. This program for middle school students involves classes on urban and community farming, understanding the concepts of “nurturing nature” and applying latest technology (hydroponics, LED lighting). The reference for this program is the Food and Agricultural Organization of the UN, and its World Food Program. Project involves planting fruit trees.

C. Guest speakers for school groups, classes, special events. The UNA-GP has a pool of speakers, who can address any issue that a class or a group of students wants to hear more about. We cover for example Nuclear Disarmament, Refugee crises, Peace Keeping, Polio vaccination, International Criminal Court, Urban Development, Family Planning, Education, Water Infrastructure, etc.

D. Mentoring of Senior Writing Projects. We pair students who seek assistance in choosing topics, formatting their production, and writing, with our large pool of members, college student volunteers and sister organizations to create a mentoring relationship.

E. The Blue Nook Project. For this new project, please see separate flier.

For more information please contact: info@una-gp.org

The United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia is a chapter of the UNA-USA and a subsidiary 501-c-3 charitable organization. The UNA-GP is an all-volunteer chapter, located at 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102.
The United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia seeks to build a cosmopolitan mindset among the citizens of our region, seeing ourselves as global citizens and seeing our city as “our” center on our earth. We believe that improving and augmenting the knowledge of the United Nations System, its ways of operating, its mandates and its importance in humanity’s history is a great way of building that mindset.

The blue nook project is our attempt to create a visible, attractive “corner” in a library, a cafeteria, a social room or any other shared space, where there is a display of what constitutes the UN System. A billboard so to speak to call attention. Ideally, the blue nook consists of four components:

a. United Nations Flag, either draped against a wall or hanging from a flagpole.
b. An inflatable globe
c. A few posters, brochures, and an invitation to join the membership of GenUN, the youth section of the UNA-USA.
d. A dedicated computer, where the screen is set up to show the UN System and the icons of the organizations that make up the UN. Each icon is linked to the website of that organization.

The UNA-GP will provide the flag, globe, and posters, as well as the programming of the computer. Volunteers of the UNA-GP will replace the posters every other month. The UNA-GP will react to any call or request for more information that may be generated by these displays.

In the vision of the UNA-GP, the Blue Nook will be “occupied” by students interested in forming a club or team or group that wants to do “something” international. We envision Model UN clubs, International Student clubs, Urban Farm groups, H2OforLife chapters, Interact clubs of Rotary, GenUN chapters, Habitat for Humanity groups, etc. to become engaged with this Blue Nook. Our hopes are to see students developing their own posters and UNA-GP will print them; students creating programs of action and UNA-GP will advise and support them; students picking a topic for a senior writing thesis from the material that the Blue Nook provides through the easy access computer and UNA-GP providing mentoring.

We call on principals, teachers, librarians, parents to help us build a Blue Nook in every school. Let’s do away with the horizons of one’s learning and belonging. If we soar high enough there will be no more horizons.
SAVE THE DATE: Friday, February 17, 2017

Members’ Day at the UN is one of the most important gatherings for UNA-USA during the year, and is a great opportunity for members to network with fellow UN supporters from around the country and hear from top UN voices. UNA-USA members and UN supporters will meet at the UN Headquarters to participate in a day of dynamic and informative discussion on the most pressing issues facing the United Nations. Members will get exclusive access to the UN, where they will hear from experts on topics like refugees and sustainable development, and network with community leaders, academics and students, and representatives from think tanks and like-minded organizations.

Online registration begins on December 1, 2016. Admission is on a first-come, first-served basis. Check here for updated as details and information

Thank you to those who participated last year in what was the largest gathering of UN supporters in the U.S. on a single day. It is exactly the kind of dedication the UN needs as it looks to take bold action and create a more sustainable world for us all.

Pre-Members' Day briefings will held on Thursday, February 16, 2017 in New York City. Please book travel accordingly.
International Women’s Day Present and Global Distinguished Lecture

A Drop of Life:

The Global Water Crisis and

It’s Unique Impact on Women

Monday, March 13, 2017 at 6 PM

International House, 3701 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia

Filmmaker and eco-activist Shalini Kantayya will present her award-winning short film about the global water crisis, *A Drop of Life*, and discuss the borderless global water crisis’ unique impact on women all over the world. *A Drop of Life* was used as a tool to organize for water rights in 40 villages across Africa—making a real-world impact in the lives of thousands. Food, refreshments and an opportunity to engage with environmentalist groups confronting these issues will be made available.

Kantayya’s production company 7th Empire Media works to create a culture of human rights and sustainability through imaginative media. She most recently directed, “Breakthrough,” for *National Geographic*, a series profiling trailblazing scientists who will transform our future (airing Spring 2017). Her latest film is *Catching the Sun*, a feature documentary that explores the race for a clean energy future through the stories of solar entrepreneurs in the U.S. and China. Kantayya is also Sundance and TED Fellow. As a William D. Fulbright Scholar, she has lectured at Princeton, Yale, Stanford, USC and other universities and colleges across the US. She has received recognition from the Sundance Documentary Program, IFP Spotlight on Documentary, New York Women in Film and Television, and the Jerome Hill Centennial.

Dr. Wendy Grube will introduce Shalini. Dr. Grube is the Interim Director for the Center for Global Women’s Health and the Director for the Women’s Health/Gender-Related Nurse Practitioner Program at the UPENN School of Nursing.
8TH ANNUAL KSM
WALK FOR WATER

*REGISTER NOW!

MARCH 25, 2017 | 9AM
SCHUYLKILL RIVER TRAIL
PHILADELPHIA, PA

Supporting Keiyo Soy Ministries
of Kenya, East Africa

*Register early to receive a special
gift from Kenya's Rift Valley

Silent auction held inside Fairmount
Water Works to auction items from
Kenya

Free T-shirt included with race

REGISTER AT WWW.KSMMINISTRIES.COM
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity/Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location/Info</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNA-GP Board Meeting</td>
<td>February 4th</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>All are welcome to attend. Location: Friends Center, 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia PA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Member's Day at the UN</td>
<td>February 17th</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>Join us in New York City, where UNA-USA members and UN supporters will meet at the UN Headquarters to participate in a day of dynamic and informative discussion on the most pressing issues facing the United Nations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A Drop of Life: The Global Water Crisis and Its Unique Impact on Women</td>
<td>March 13th</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Join us for an International Women's Day to watch Shalini Kantayya's award-winning film A Drop of Life and discuss the global water crisis' unique impact on women. Food and refreshments will served. Location: International House, 3701 Chestnut St, Philadelphia PA 1910</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walk For Water</td>
<td>March 25th</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Join us for a walk to support the Keiyo Soy Ministries of Kenya, East Africa. See flyer on page 9. Location: Schuylkill River Trail, Philadelphia PA</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!

If this newsletter was forwarded or shared with you, you can get your own subscription and keep up with our chapter's activities! Sign up on our website.

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 President, at mpatel@una-gp.org

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