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US Should Fund U.N. In Full

Read our op-ed on why U.N. funding from the US government is so crucial. Page: 5

Spotlight on Human Rights

Learn more about our human rights organization of the month: National Immigration Law Center Page: 4

Stay abreast of the UN five days per week with UN Wire. You can receive it free in your inbox here.
"Water Warriors" is the title of a nice booklet that Shannon Marquez from Drexel University gave me. It describes the work of students and faculty to bring water and sanitation facilities to poor regions. Good work, much needed. Title has a nice rhythm. Yet, I worry about “warriors.”

Donald Trump wants to win more wars (again). So, he is going to increase the military (and homeland security) spending by ten percent, full well knowing that the USA already accounts for half, HALF, the world’s spending on military hardware and personnel. We spend as much as ALL OTHER 192 Countries combined! Moreover, spending doesn’t mean winning. He must mean to actually engage in or create conflicts in order to “win.” It’s the winning (or losing) that gets you into the history books, at least the history books written by mostly male writers, who use very traditional, antique, even primitive views on how humanity unfolds. No country leaders in their right minds will attack ever the USA. Next to suicide, it would display a level of dumbness that none wants to see written up in those history books. Modern history tells us that wars are not won or lost anymore with military might, but by engaging in terror and counter-terror strategies, by outsmarting the cyber-geeks “on the other sides,” by sheer intelligence. In that sense, winning is a permanent state of acting, and peace is to worked for every day.

Using “WAR” as a label comes easy. And while Donald Trump may think mostly of military winning, I can think of many instances where war, warrying, and the mindset that comes with that, has not served us well. We are losing many wars. Some more spectacular than others. The war on drugs, the war on poverty, the war on crime, the war on hunger, the war on terrorism. We may win a few battles, but as warfare, we are losing. There are also some wars we should be losing; the war on women, the war on the press, the war on the environment, the war on Christmas.

I wish that we could declare war on stupidity, on ethnocentric myopic thinking, on national arrogance; demand war on white supremacy, that nasty global movement that expresses itself through attacks on minorities, such as the vandalizing of
Jewish cemeteries, the burning of mosques, the insulting with pig heads and pig blood, the killing of blacks, browns, “ragheads”, and “funny speaking foreigners”; a movement that has recently found adherence in the halls of power in some nations of the NATO as well as Eastern Europe and North Asia.

Yet I don’t want to be a warrior. I like to be a worrier. Worry is a good driver of proper action against social ills and nastiness. We never had a war on tobacco, although that industry would like to use that label. Yet, by worrying and acting with proper goals in mind, we have made great inroads in erasing that drug from the market. The struggle to turn the obesity epidemic around is showing promising results. Everything done by worrying, not worrying. The United Nations gets most things done by worrying, such as reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals, the building of regional coalitions for tackling diseases and migration issues, by setting health strategies that help millions of people, by promoting human rights. It may not appeal to the people with a ‘warrior’ mindset, but is seems to be much more fruitful. I know that I cannot win the eradication of stupidity and fascist minds by declaring war. I do know that worrying about them will create better changes of reducing those ills to small enough levels to not harm society.

So, let’s worry about water; Drexel students, while you may call yourself warriors, never forget to keep worrying.
A Few Words From Our President

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

Manisha Patel
mpatel@una-gp.org

Spotlight on Human Rights

National Immigration Law Center

Established in 1979, the National Immigration Law Center (NILC) is one of the leading organizations in the U.S. exclusively dedicated to defending and advancing the rights of low-income immigrants. They have taken a leadership role through litigation, advocacy, policy analysis as well as research and messaging strategies on behalf of immigrants. Their work is national in scope and they have offices in Los Angeles, Berkeley, California and Washington, DC. In addition to bringing lawsuits on behalf of immigrants, NILC serves as a reliable source of information for immigrants about their rights and options in areas such as health care, workers rights as well as relevant state and federal laws. Many policy makers turn to NILC for information and advice that can aid immigrants. In addition, NILC provides trainings, educational materials and legal counsel to community groups working on behalf of immigrants.

Ongoing information can be obtained by signing up for email updates on their website.
Political forces on Capitol Hill and in the White House are unleashing policy initiatives, often around the theme of "America First", that will shake up our nation. Some initiatives are targeting the United Nations. One is Senate Bill S 107, which aims to defund the UN as punishment for the recent Security Council resolution condemning Israel’s settlements in occupied territories. And from House of Representatives is the “American Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2017.” It repeals the United Nations Participation Act of 1945, leading the U.S. to leave the organization. Although not as dramatic, the White House is working on executive orders massively cutting back funds for the United Nations. These policy proposals and executive orders are ill-advised and based on false reasoning. If we want to express frustration with the UN and the Security Council’s vote, there are much more effective ways of delivering that message, the more so when we keep our contractual agreement to pay our dues.

The U.S. pays for roughly 22 percent of the U.N.’s annual budget. Our dues for next year will total around $611 million, or about $1.88 per person. The relative share of several countries is higher, such as Canada at $2.06 p.p. The USA has withheld mandatory funding before, without much effect, politically or fiscally.

We lose face, break our word, and the debt stays. Other nations will absorb the temporary deficit and have an opportunity to expand their influence. Next to our allies being irked, it may mean that rising powers – e.g. China, India --- step up.
Expansions of, or, as now suggested by the White House, reductions in voluntary funding of UN agencies and programs, have always been part and parcel of political maneuvering. There is nothing wrong with an evaluation of what we undertake in the UN System. However, a blanket, massive reduction of funding at 40%, as the administration indicated it was considering, would have repercussions in most spectacular ways all over the world. There will also probably be an immediate negative impact right here at home, on many thousands of Americans who play crucial roles for UN agencies. After all, most dollars spend by the U.S. on U.N. missions come right back. Furthermore, 40% budget cuts across the board would mean that we stand to lose not only our place of dominance at the U.N. but also our standing as a reliable partner and ally. Such a cut in funding to the U.N. may be but a footnote in the colossal US federal budget, yet it would be a calamity for the global marketing of our universities and many companies. It will mean hunger and death for millions abroad. 40% is a sledgehammer, where a surgeon’s scalpel should be the tool of choice.

Leaving the U.N. (as the House Bill suggests) would cause lasting damage, not only to the USA, or the U.N., but to the whole world. We are in one world, where nations are formed and considered sovereign within borders, where rules of law are applied, human rights are acknowledged, capital can move speedily, as well as ideas, opinions, goods, and missiles. We have on this planet only one organization where all 193 nations can engage politically, bargain, and promote their national and geopolitical agendas. An organization, started on the ashes of WWII; an organization that Americans have invested in deeply and used to promote American ideals, values, organizational insights, and economic interests. And now we want to step away? A most irrational step indeed, unworthy of a nation that wants to lead. We cannot throw off the mantle of global leadership in this political arena. We need to be in the U.N., lead in the U.N., and combat right there the ills of humanity. Want reform? Go for it. But reform is done from within. We need to be in the arena, at full force and full voice. Let’s continue to fund the U.N. in full and on time.
As a retired educator, Members’ Day at the UN was an energizing experience because of questions that were raised by many of the high school and college students. I was truly proud when Alpha Kappa Alpha was recognized for the collaborative efforts that have been accomplished in cities across the country. My commitment to continue to advocate for full funding of the UN was solidified after hearing the story of Hamdia Ahmed, a former refugee in Kenya. The highlight for me was the use of technology, "PhonetoAction" to send over 1,400 letters to our respective congressmen within 2-3 minutes.
On February 3rd, our very own UPenn work-study student Emma Shenton gave a presentation on Sustainable Poverty Eradication at the Opportunity Collaboration conference.

Contrary to what some believe, Emma argued that absolute poverty is NOT inevitable. To eliminate it, philanthropic and non-governmental organizations must be supportive, sustainable, collaborative, science-driven, and client-centered. On the other hand, governments must establish criteria for action and ensure proper living conditions for youth and adolescence.

Great job, Emma!
Our conference organizers have been hard at work preparing students for our high school Model UN conference on April 1st.

School visits feature lessons focused on this year's topic, police brutality, from a local to an international level.

For more information on our education efforts and this year's conferences, please see page 10.

UPenn Work-Study
Student Meriem Messaoudi speaking to SLA Beeber High School
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.** Program where we create blue "corners" in public spaces (libraries, cafeterias, etc) showcasing a display of what constitutes a UN system. We want to build a Blue Nook at every school!

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

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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.
All Board Members can be reached through info@una-gp.org.

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Carol Jenkins, Vice-President
Ed Gracely, Secretary
Barbara Nolan, Treasurer
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Ron Bednar, focus area Habitat III
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Carol Parkinson-Hall, focus area Education
Lucille Pilling, focus area Global Health
Prachi Potdar, focus area Human Rights
Nick Sanders, focus area Advocacy
Ashley Session, focus area Education & GenUN
Anastasia Shown, focus area Women’s Day
Tomoko Torii, focus area Peace

Christiaan Morssink, Executive Director
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.

Register Here.
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
The Global Water Alliance

Committed to increasing global access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene services by engaging the Philadelphia community and beyond.

REGISTER NOW
April 5, 2017

GLOBAL WATER ALLIANCE
SYMPOSIUM ON GLOBAL WASTEWATER IN DEVELOPING URBAN AREAS
8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
351 Steinberg Dietrich Hall
University of Pennsylvania

Click Here to Register

Register Here.
<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>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. Location: Schuylkill River Trail, Philadelphia PA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rule of Law Model UN Conference</td>
<td>April 1st</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>High school students will join us on Penn’s campus for a Model UN conference on the rule of law. Topic: Policing Location: Huntsman Hall, University of Pennsylvania, 3730 Walnut Street, Philadelphia PA 19104.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNA-GP Board Meeting</td>
<td>April 5th</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
<td>Friends Center, 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia.</td>
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*United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia | 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102*
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 March newsletter is a collaborative effort:

Layout and design editor: Carolyn Curry
Board Liaison: Ed Gracely
President: Manisha Patel
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 President, at mpatel@una-gp.org

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