Table of Contents:

From Christiaan’s Desk .................................................. 2
Volunteer Coordinator Update ..................................... 4
Spotlight on Human Rights ........................................... 4
For Your Entertainment ............................................... 5
Ban the Bomb ............................................................... 6
UNA-GP Board Members 2017 ...................................... 7
Upcoming Events .......................................................... 8

In This Issue:

For Your Entertainment
Read excerpts of this address by Herbert S. Hadley before the League of Women Voters of St. Louis
Page: 5

Spotlight on Human Rights
Learn more about our human rights organization of the month:
Global Citizen
Page: 4

Stay abreast of the UN five days per week with UN Wire. You can receive it free in your inbox here.
Busy days behind us and before us. In the UNA-GP realm we worked on drafting new bylaws, and finalizing our educational activities with our Model UN on the Rule of Law on April 1. We underscored the relevance of WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) in the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals when we walked/ran for water on March 25, invited medical professionals of SILAMP (Society of Iberian and Latin American Medical Professionals) to join the cause, and participated in the waste water symposium organized by GWA (Global Water Alliance). We also commemorated the long road ahead for building gender equity worldwide on International Women’s Day and we interacted with other chapters and UNA-USA about the worrisome budget cuts that Mister Trump is ordering regarding several humanitarian programs within the UN development programs, and deep cuts in the USAID program that are promised as well. Meanwhile, we may very well see a return to the days of the eighties, when the Pentagon, stuffed with monies, started to fund health (care) research, and helped with building airports and infrastructure as part of our “National Security Interests”. And after the launching of 59 Tomahawk cruise missiles at a cost of about 30 million, our national defense industry will have a few more employment options available to replenish those stockpiles. And just now, we can report that the Pentagon has been able to finally use a MOAB (Mother of All Bombs) for real in Afghanistan. Big Bertha from above? I am just shaking my head.

A lot of nasty things are happening in the world, and much of it involves American and Russian influences and their minions in regional conflicts. Of course, a few good things can be reported as well. Mary Day Kent, just returned from her winter domicile, reminded me that, in her words “one bright spot for the UN is the crucial role in the disarmament process in Colombia which is so far running amazingly smoothly and which the UN representative says has collected over 90% of all the weapons due to be surrendered, way above the expectations based on other disarmament processes in other conflicts.” And polio vaccinations are up and new polio cases are very rare, extremely rare; the Zika scare has re-energized

Antonio Guterres raises alarm as hunger crisis worsens
the governments of the OAS (Organization of American States) and PAHO (Pan American Health Organization) “is on the ball”. Good stuff is done

Yet, horrendous acts of war crimes like the chemical weapons attack by the Assad regime get much airtime, and rightly so, given the strong language, reach and depth of the United Nations Ban on Chemical and Biological Weapons. And, less reported here in the U.S., from where I sit, the blockade of harbors in Yemen by the Saudi forces, using American weaponry, is a war crime as well; Humanitarian aid ships cannot enter. War crimes have been committed in Iraq, Syria, Libya, South Sudan, Nigeria, Yemen and Somalia, and they will not be prosecuted until the major players see it in their interests to do so. The relevancy of the International Criminal Court is to be tested soon, and I am worried about the outcome. The court has no enforcement powers (yet). Just like the justices of the Permanent Court of International Justice in The Hague in the thirties. (see also elsewhere in the newsletter).

Against all the saber-rattling, posturing, war mongering and grand standing, the calls from the Secretary General Guterres, warning about the unbelievable scope of the humanitarian crisis of famine, epidemics and enforced migrations, fall on deaf ears. Power-focused politicians, captains of industry, generals and admirals seem to give but scant, and then often opportunistic, attention to human rights, quests for equity, or decent living for all. Those policy issues lack urgency, seem unimportant. Battling terrorism, not understanding and thus preventing terrorism, no, battling terrorism is important. And the way we see the political discourse unfolding in most western capitals, we may conclude that the goals of ISIS and Al Qaida, and let’s not forget the white supremacy alliance that stretches from the Ural to Alaska, those goals are being realized. We are changing our lives out of fear for the terrorist among us (all the while ignoring the routine news and data of the enormity of gun-related deaths in our streets). We have built a homeland security apparatus that is now becoming focused on people because of their race, religion, sexual orientation, place of origin, income, or language. And in such climate, there is no interest in multilateral thinking, multilateral discourse, multilateral planning. America First, Germany First, Russia First, India First, China First, Brazil First, Indonesia First, indeed a competition, certain to have many losers. So many more stand to win if our politicians would be working on Earth First, Public Health First, Science First, Education First, Food First, NON-Fake News First. WE ALL WOULD STAND TO WIN.
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

Global Citizen

Global Citizen describes itself as "a social action platform for a global generation that wants to solve the world’s biggest challenges”. It works in 8 major issue areas: Girls & Women, Health, Education, Finance & Innovation, Food & Hunger, Water & Sanitation, Environment and Citizenship. It began in 2008 and has a strong commitment to fostering the success of global initiatives such as those that would support the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. The organization has a close relationship to The Gates Foundation and also receives support from many other sources. Global Citizen provides weekly information that scans the world in each of their key issue areas. In addition, they have a “rewards program” that offers a chance to win tickets to concerts, shows and other events for those who take action in support of their priority areas. Samples of their actions can be found on their website. Global Citizen also offers information on the impact they believe their actions have had in the targeted areas.
From an address by Herbert S. Hadley before the League of Women Voters of St. Louis, October 23, discussing the political debates in the U.S. about a Permanent Court of International Justice:

“…….Though it may seem foreign to the purpose of this discussion, I wish to say that in my opinion the Vice President …. is advocating a most necessary and important measure of reform by insisting that the rules of the Senate shall be changed so as to make it impossible for a few men in that body to defeat the will of a majority and to set up their judgment against the preponderant opinion of the American people. No statesman, in my opinion, has advocated a more important principle of reform since Theodore Roosevelt ……. aroused the slumbering conscience of the people to a realization of the violation of the principles of common honesty and a square deal by existing abuses in commercial and official life…..”

“……. What, then, is the fundamental conception of world peace that this proposition presents? Agreements between nations to respect each other's frontiers and not to engage in war, have time and time again proven futile because when controversies have arisen no established method for their settlement has existed. World peace must be based on international confidence that justice will be done between all nations, and that alone can come from the creation of, and respect for, a system of just law administered by a tribunal that will have behind its decisions the public opinion of the world.

And why should there not exist among nations a rule of law; an awarding of justice according to settled rules of conduct, as now prevails among men? We must face this problem with the full realization that the only substitute for the rule of force and war is a rule of law and justice. And why should not law and justice be international in their scope and operation? The nations of the world have become next-door neighbors through the achievements of science, which have all but wiped out time and distance. Trade, industry, finance, literature, science, art, education, exchange of information; almost every activity and interest of life are international in their scope and operation. Why should not the world set up rules of conduct and standards of right and justice among nations, when within nations such rules and standards constitute the very foundations of government and society.

What can be a better safeguard for our civilization than to have a rule of law substituted for a rule of force? For law, in its highest and broadest sense, is the instrument of justice, the handmaid of order; the guarantor of individual right, the arbiter of dispute and the reconciler of differences. It is the cement which binds together the structure of human institutions. It is the best hope of the world today for saving humanity from the awful destruction and horrors of war...” (Spoken in the year: 1925)
Finally—some good news on our efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons! On March 27, negotiations began at the U.N. for a new treaty to ban nuclear weapons. Your support for PSR's work has played a key role in making these negotiations possible.

Our message about the catastrophic medical consequences of nuclear war has been the driving force behind the powerful international movement for a new Ban Treaty. Working with our partners throughout our worldwide federation, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, we have brought this message to governments and civil society organizations across the globe. This is a truly historic achievement of which you can be proud.

In January, former Secretary of Defense William Perry said that the chance of nuclear war is greater today than during the worst years of the Cold War. Right now, Donald Trump has control of the entire U.S. nuclear arsenal—6800 nuclear weapons. Given the recent attack in Syria and the increasing tension between the U.S. and North Korea, Perry's assessment appears to be well-founded.

We can stop the drift to nuclear disaster that we face today. I urge you to be as active as you can be and to give as generously as you can to help PSR build the campaign we need to end the nuclear weapons era once and for all. Our children deserve a world free from the threat of nuclear annihilation. It is up to us to give them that world.
All Board Members can be reached through info@una-gp.org.

Manisha Patel, President
Carol Jenkins, Vice-President
Ed Gracely, Secretary
Barbara Nolan, Treasurer
Enid Adler, focus area ICC
Ron Bednar, focus area Habitat III
Louis Bolling, focus area PR and Sports
Megan Doherty, focus area Global Health
Gillian Gilhool, focus area Advocacy
Bob Groves, focus area Human Rights
Cynthia Hyler, focus area Education
Mary Day Kent, focus area Advocacy
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
<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>Red Cross/ Red Crescent Day</td>
<td>May 8th</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>UNA-GP calling out to our youth to become aware of the importance of these organizations and urge young people to donate blood and volunteer where possible. Also on this day we salute the volunteers of Doctors Without Borders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNA-GP Board Meeting</td>
<td>June 3rd</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>10AM</td>
<td>Friends Center 1501 Cherry Street Philadelphia, PA 19102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Refugee Day</td>
<td>June 20th</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>Petitions to be held at City Hall, Friends Center, and colleges and churches throughout the city. Find more information on the day's campaign <a href="#">here</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNA-GP Garden Party</td>
<td>July 23rd</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>At a residence in North Philly. Watch for details!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternative Model UN Roll Out</td>
<td>August 28th</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Roll out of our newly formatted Alternative Model UN conference on the Rule of Law for high school students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Nook Program Reveal</td>
<td>September 11th</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Roll out of our Blue Nook Program</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, 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 April 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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