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In This Issue:

Garden Party Invitation
Join us on July 23rd for an afternoon and evening of food, cool drinks, hot air, and even hotter dialogue!
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Spotlight on Human Rights
Learn more about our human rights organization of the month:
Freedom House
Page: 4

Stay abreast of the UN five days per week with UN Wire. You can receive it free in your inbox here.
I am incredibly late with writing this piece. May 23rd!! Painkillers, cough medicine, and jetlag is a sure combination to blunt any creative effort. So be it. Let’s begin (again).

First, congratulations to our board member Anastasia Shown, who was able to throw a graduation party for her husband, Simeon Braxton. Doing a PhD with two kids and a full-time job, that’s tenacity and strong family support. I wish them well as career plans are being plotted and the global market is without borders. Advice: Check out UNESCO or some of the UN universities.

Mary Day Kent celebrated a big birthday number, like me. In Suriname, a “Biggie Jarie” is celebrated with an early morning serenade, a call out on the radio, and lots of visitors. I think, given her support for Larry Krasner, that his win in the DP primary for district attorney was “icing on the cake”. Congratulations MayDay!!!

On the other hand, some members had to deal with health issues in the family and had to go through much anxiety. I wish them well and hope that the care given will be properly handled through “OBAMACARE.”

Talking about health care and the debates in congress in DC about this matter, it behooves us to realize that the United Nations has adopted a policy towards global universal health care. From the Lancet, April 2017, I pulled the opening statement of an interesting article: ---- “Following endorsement by WHO, the World Bank, and the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals, the drive towards universal health coverage (UHC) is now one of the most prominent global health policies. As countries progress towards UHC, they are forced to make difficult choices about how to prioritise health issues and expenditure: which services to expand first, whom to include first, and how to shift from out-of-pocket payment towards prepayment. Building on extensive philosophical literature on the ethics of priority setting in health care, a 2014 WHO report provided guidance about how states can resolve these issues.”

I really hope that OUR representatives in DC, Harrisburg, Trenton and elsewhere take time to read this text and absorb its meaning regarding our own national health care industry and what values should drive it. It is quite alarming that many of them admit not having read the legislation that they voted on. In the world of business, that constitutes malpractice; signing
without reading is asking for trouble.

My jetlag is caused by a trip to Porto, Portugal. Porto (Oporto for the Brits) is a member of the organization of world heritage cities, as such an older peer of Philadelphia. The whole historic center of Porto, connected on both banks by the Luiz I Bridge, is a world heritage site. Being Dutch, water related architecture always interests me and I made an effort to visit this span over the Rio Douro. The bridge was designed and built by Théophile Seyrig, a disciple of Gustave Eiffel, and provides a spectacular view.

Porto is a Gamma-world city; ranked as such by the Globalization and World Rankings Research Institute, which distinguishes world cities as Alpha, Beta and Gamma, taking into account many factors; economic factors are, however, deemed more important than cultural, social or political factors in this ranking. To make even Gamma class, a city must have a significant connection to the world economy. Philadelphia is listed as a Beta+ world city. London and New York are the only two Alpha++ world cities, characterized as dominant global hubs in a variety of sectors, from finance and banking, to cultural expressions, communication networks, trade and political dialogues, as well as knowledge production and innovation. The urban research agenda papers of UN Habitat, as well as the reports of the World Rankings Research Institute are fascinating texts for those who want to engage in urban policy issues, using a global perspective and devaluing the immediate hinterland. Paraphrasing from these sources, “the citizens of world cities have more in common with each other across oceans and continents than with the communities that exist around them an hour’s drive away. The more they integrate their economies with the larger world, the more they will harbor a global citizen mindset, and look at the full spectrum of global humankind when assessing plans, policies, and opportunities”. World Heritage City status provides yet another link to the global humanity. As I visited Porto to observe for myself its fascinating culture and history, so will others come to Philadelphia to see what this city has to contribute to our collective human heritage. With the relentless developments of electronics and media (social, scientific, managerial and, or political) the populations of these world cities may very well be experiencing the onset of frictions between up and coming global parameters of our lives and the confinements of national norms, structures and powerplays. Philadelphia, by the way the only Beta World City in the world that has an Alpha++ city within a 80 miles radius, ranks 47 in the Global City Index, and 43 in the Global City Outlook (outlook is the projection of future developments). I think that we can improve on that, notwithstanding the proximity of NYC. UNA-GP, focusing on educating our citizens about the UN and our involvements in the globalization processes, can contribute. I hope that, as we develop our plans for the coming years, we keep that target in mind.
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

Spotlight on Human Rights

Freedom House

Freedom House describes itself as an “independent watchdog organization dedicated to the expansion of freedom and democracy around the world”. The organization analyzes challenges to freedom and advocates for greater political rights as well as civil liberties. Freedom House also supports frontline activists who defend human rights and promote democratic change. Founded in 1941, Freedom House has its roots in support of US involvement in World War II to counter isolationist sentiment. It is one of the first American organizations to champion freedom on a global scale. Each year it publishes Freedom in the World, a highly respected analysis of political rights and civil liberties in which every country is ranked on a scale from 1 (most free) to 7 (least free). Over the years it has expanded its analysis to include press/internet freedom, gender inequality as well as government transparency and corruption. In 2017 it is offering a focus on what it terms “The False Promise of Populism”. Freedom House provides ongoing analysis of issues on its website and access to regular updates.

Manisha Patel
mpatel@una-gp.org

UNA-GP President
Thanks!!

Our Blue Nook project is getting a bit of support. It is a good morale booster when groups like the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, Omega Omega chapter, and the Quaker Meeting of Chestnut Hill are supporting our work with grants that make a decent roll-out possible in August, when the new school year starts. Our teacher contacts in the district can now be approached with a delivery of our contributions assured. In the last year we started small scale, and only tentatively, at the Kensington CAPA high school and at SLABeeber. The funding received will be enough to buy materials for at least 20 schools.

The more important issue for us will now be how to find the manpower to do deliveries and provide mentoring to the schools that sign up. It is with pleasure that I can report that the Rotary Madrugadores Club of North Philadelphia will help in their “catchment” area. But more volunteers are needed. Our grant request to fund a part time worker was declined by one of the larger foundations in the region. We will continue our grant writing, but meanwhile may have to fall back on interns, workstudy students and service delivery by recent graduates. Please shoot us an email if you think that you can be involved and “adopt” a blue nook for the coming year(s).

Christiaan
WE NEED YOU TO VOLUNTEER

easy, fast, from your own computer or phone; wherever you are. It’s a “piece of cake”.

JUNE 20, WORLD REFUGEE DAY

I am proud to live in a sanctuary city; I am a supporter and admirer of the Welcoming Center, HIAS, PICC, the Philadelphia City government, among many other groups and citizens that work for refugees and immigrants. We can be proud about our empathy and our outreached hands. It feels like sharing cake.

Yet, we can do a lot more outside our own town, our own hood. We need to knock on the doors of many governments, many agencies and urge them to help the UNHCR with its life-saving work. To that end, the United Nations Refugee Agency has developed a petition drive. Add your name to the #WithRefugees petition to send a clear message to governments that they must act with solidarity and shared responsibility. MOREOVER, ON THE EVE OF WORLD REFUGEE DAY, JUNE 19, TAKE A MOMENT TO REACH OUT TO YOUR FRIENDS, FAMILY AND COLLEAGUES. SEND AN EMAIL, POST A FACEBOOK MESSAGE, DO A TWEET, OR SEND A BUNCH OF SNAIL MAILINGS.

TELL THEM ALL THAT YOU STAND WITH THE MILLIONS OF VICTIMS OF WAR, ETHNIC VIOLENCE AND NATURAL DISASTERS. SUPPORT THE UNHCR.

PLEASE VISIT:

http://www.unhcr.org/refugeeday/us/petition/
Garden Party 2017

Invitation
The eighth annual
FUNDRAISER
JULY 23; 5-8PM
146 Pelham Road, Philadelphia. 19119
Street parking; close to bus 23 and Carpenter Lane station.

All members and friends,
Please join us for a late afternoon and evening of food, cool drinks, hot air, even hotter dialogues and plenty opinions; music from around the globe. Raffle prizes.

Bring your kids we will organize some games. Bring a friend (or two, three), make more friends and promote your causes. Bring business cards, banners, posters.

Create opportunities to talk & network between action groups, and discuss how to globalize our discourses in this era of renewed populism. Let's have great conversations at each table!

Minimum contribution: $15.00
* Buffet-style, homemade food
* Cash Bar

Donation Button

Theme:
Urban Farming: Local Action, Global SCOPE
Using agricultural innovations and global scales of technology transfers, the world food production has been able to keep up with the spectacular population growth on our planet. Hunger and starvation are not technical problems anymore, but outcomes of conflicts, market conditions, and sometimes incredibly inhumane behaviors of powerful political agents.

Yet we cannot take these trends for granted. Our planet is stressed by our ways of production, industrialization of agriculture is slowly eroding the soils and overall, we need to become smarter and eco-friendly in our food production. Hence the drive for urban farming, pushed even by the World Food Program. So, let’s talk about how we in Philadelphia can contribute to this trend. Speakers to be announced.

Goal: To make Philadelphia a global example of how to green the urban landscape and produce food at the same time.
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
## UNA-GP Upcoming Events

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<th>Activity/Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location/Info</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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>5PM - 8PM</td>
<td>146 Pelham Road, Philadelphia PA 19119 Join us for an afternoon of food, drinks, and dialogue. Children and donations are welcome! Flyer on page 7.</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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</tbody>
</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 May-June newsletter is a collaborative effort:

Layout and design editor: Carolyn Curry
Board Liason: 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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