In this Issue:

Spotlight on Human Rights
Learn more about our human rights organization of the month: Brennan Center for Justice
Page: 6

Growing Impact
Keep up to date on our latest educational outreach projects — page 4

Table of Contents:
(Click to jump to topic)
- From Christiaan’s Desk — 2
- Equator Prize — 2
- Growing Our Educational Activities — 4
- Peace Day Philadelphia — 5
- Food and Water — 6
- United Nations Day — 6
- Spotlight on Human Rights — 6
- Welcome Week — 7
- Save the Date: UDHR — 7
- Upcoming Events at a Glance — 8
- 2017 Board — 8
- Support the UNA-GP — 9

New Team Members
We are excited to welcome a number of new faces to our team here at UNA-GP. They will be working on various projects and initiatives, as we try to expand our presence and influence around the community. If you wish to contact our new members, please use info@una-gp.org. The newspaper coordinator will now be Kate French, as we wish Carolyn Curry luck in her new endeavors. Any questions, suggestions, or commentary about the newsletter can be sent to frenchk@sas.upenn.edu.

Stay abreast of the UN five days per week with UN Wire. You can receive it free in your inbox here.
Three weeks ago, I promised to start writing again. Kate French is taking over from Carolyn Curry as our new editor, and I felt the renewed energy that comes with the start of the academic year. Then my first draft disappeared; it is somewhere in this machine that I am using, but I gave up finding it. That was followed up by having to handle identity theft with my Home Depot credit card; this time it involved police reports and signing several papers and all that jazz. As if that was not enough, the folks at Discover Card called, there was “suspicious” activity on my account, so they closed the account and opened a new one. Together with having to answer some questions from the PA income tax personnel—easy to answer, but time consuming and a bit off-putting nevertheless—I got myself in a block. I write creatively in the early morning hours or not at all. AND, this morning the block broke. It is 5:30AM, my coffee is hot, and Temple radio plays some nice easy jazz. So let me ramble on some more.

Being played by criminals who use the hacking game is easy to insure against and become suave about. Not being nonchalant, but it doesn’t feel like being hit as abuse of your privacy and safety when you get burglarized. But that is a private person, one civilian. However, the hacking of Equifax, which has data of so many details of our lives, that is a totally different matter. A hack of this scope can wreck the whole system of “properly” functioning modern capitalism. Wouldn’t it be great if the hackers had all that info on their machines only, and that these machines were somewhere on the Florida Keys or the British Virgin Islands when Irma paid a visit? ‘Nuff said about hacking and Irma.

UNA-GP is gearing up for another year of promoting educational messages and methods to the schools of Philadelphia. Our pamphlet of these activities can be found elsewhere in this newsletter and on our website www.una-gp.org. We are also collaborating with Peace Day Philly and the High School for Peace and Social Justice next week for the annual International Day of Peace. Last week, I
From Christiaan’s Desk

attended the gala event of the Global Philadelphia Association (GPA) on the eve of the Solidarity of World Heritage Cities Day. Today, GPA will roll out the 3rd International exposition, a 45-day period of all kind of activities. We will participate in that exposition with two events: the “Celebrate the Global Citizen” reception on UN Day, October 24th and the pop-up exhibition “The Art of Irrigation” at the Fairmount Water Works in the week of World Food Day, October 15 to 22. See below for more information and more events.

Equator Prize 2017

Presented by the Office of Immigrant Affairs

The Equator Initiative is “a global search for nature-based, local solutions to sustainable development”, and in celebration of the Equator Prize 2017, which recognizes outstanding local and indigenous community initiatives from across the planet that are advancing innovative on-the-ground solutions to climate, environment and poverty challenges. The Initiative will host two conversations for local and global leaders, as well as a networking event on September 18th 2017, from 12:00-2:00PM, at the SDG Media Zone, at United Nations Headquarters. These dialogues are meant to be a platform for indigenous peoples’ representatives and local civil society leaders to join in discussion with national policymakers, global thought leaders, and media to tackle the enormous questions and challenges surrounding environmental conservation, poverty reduction, and sustainable development.

The first of these dialogues will focus on conserving, restoring, and sustainably managing nature to achieve sustainable development, and on the role of indigenous peoples and local communities as stewards of biodiversity and ecosystems. The second dialogue will be oriented around the theme of local action, and will identify prevailing constraints and opportunities for supporting, replicating and scaling up local action for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
Growing Our Educational Activities

As you all know, we organize 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. More simply, we want to help shape the next generation of engaged, global citizens. That, as a goal, is broad and abstract, but, as is often the case, our impact starts with education.

Our main activities throughout the year are our Alternative Model United Nations Conferences, which, though small, are designed to be applicable to current regional and global affairs. We invite students to debate a problem that is relevant for our region and city, and contextualize that problem as a member of a global community. 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, and more. We urge the participating students to stay civically engaged by forming clubs and organize service projects. This year, we are planning conferences on Water Stewardship, the Rule of Law, and Global Public Health. Our Water Stewardship Conference will be a technical design competition about a specific topic within the area of irrigation in urban farming; to be held on January 15th, 2018, at the University of Pennsylvania. As always, we’ll be providing more information as we draw closer to the events themselves.

This year we will be rolling out the Blue Nook Project to build local student’s knowledge of the UN System and its many moving parts. We want to establish Blue Nooks at local schools and libraries as a public and social space to display and promote the UN. Our vision is that 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, H2O-forLife chapters, Interact clubs of Rotary, GenUN chapters, Habitat for Humanity groups, etc. becoming engaged with this Blue Nook. We’re calling 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.

Students are our future, and we want to help them help other. We’re excited for all the events we have planned and hope that you can stay involved.
Peace Day
Philadelphia

“Together for Peace: Respect, Safety, and Dignity for all”

This year, we will be celebrating the UN International Day of Peace, or simply Peace Day, with a full week of events, partnering with other committed groups and individuals. This celebration will include workshops, exhibitions, discussions, film screenings, marches, concerts, and more around the Philadelphia area.

Spotlight events

On Tuesday, September 19th, there will be a discussion titled “Global Migration Crises, Local Solutions” at the Philadelphia Ethical Society (1906 S. Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia) from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. The goal is to have a productive dialogue about global migrants, the global refugee crisis, and Philadelphia. Come learn why they are here, about their lives, and how our city and local organizations are addressing this crisis.

What are causes of the migrations and how large are they? What is it like for women, men and their children to live in a refugee camp? What are global and local political ramifications of the migration? What is the City of Philadelphia doing to help refugees? How can you make a difference?

Come hear a number of speakers, including Helen Gym, Councilwoman At Large; Symbol Lai, Deputy Director of Office of Immigrant Affairs; Peter Decherney, Professor at the University of Pennsylvania; Sundrop Carter, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition; Madap Sharma from Bethany Christian Services of Greater Delaware Valley; and Ronald F. Coburn from Amnesty International-Philadelphia Chapter. Learn about migration around the world and what we can do here in Philadelphia.

On September 21st, International Peace Day, there will be a Together for Peace celebration in Rittenhouse Square from 11:30am to 12:15pm, including the traditional moment of silence at 12 noon.

That evening the 7th Annual Sing Along for Peace will be held at the Philadelphia Ethical Society, from 6:00-6:45 pm followed by the Together for Peace 2017 Concert from 7-9pm.

For the full schedule of events, click here.
Food and Water: the Art of Irrigation
World Food Day

Monday, October 16th is World Food Day, and, to celebrate, we will be putting on a weeklong exhibition hosted by the Fairmont Water Works to showcase the vital connection between water, agriculture, and food. From October 15th to October 22nd, you can come to the Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center (640 Waterworks Dr., Philadelphia, PA, next to the art museum) to learn about how water and food interact, from early agriculture to modern urban farming. The exhibit will be open Sunday from 1-5pm and Tuesday through Saturday 10am-5pm.

United Nations Day
Celebrating the “Global Citizen” and Awards Ceremony

On October 24th, United Nations Day, we at the UNA-GP will be hosting an event in honor of John F. Smith, III, President of the Global Philadelphia Association from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Once a year, The Global Citizen Award is given to a Philadelphian who is “part of an emerging world community, is empathic about the dignity of all human beings, and whose actions contribute to building this community’s values and practices.” See full flier here. Security requires a list of attendees so please register here.

Spotlight on Human Rights

The Brennen Center for Justice describes itself as “…a nonpartisan law and policy institute that seeks to improve our systems of democracy and justice.” Operating out of the New York University School of Law, the Center places its major focus on 5 issues: justice for all, voting rights and elections, liberty and national security, money in politics as well as government and court reform. It is named after former Supreme Court Justice, William Brennan, considered one of the most influential and liberal justices of the 20th Century. The Center serves as a scholarly resource for legislators and others interested in racial justice and reducing mass incarceration, improving voter participation and ending unnecessary government secrecy. In addition, it focuses on legal ways to effectively fight terrorism while avoiding human rights violations, such as torture. Through its website, the Brennan Center offers ways for individuals to get involved in its work and to stay abreast of current developments in the Center’s areas of concern.
Welcome Week 2017

Presented by the Office of Immigrant Affairs

Welcome Week 2017 will take place September 15th-25th around the Greater Philadelphia area. With a week full of activities for refugees, immigrants, and people of all backgrounds, the week’s goal is to bring people together and strengthen our community here in Philadelphia. With flag raisings, street festivals, art instillations, the Philadelphia International Unity soccer tournament, and more (full schedule available here), people of all ages can enjoy themselves while participating in the global community that we are happy to be a part of here in Philadelphia. Many events will overlap between Welcome Week and the celebrations of Peace Day Philadelphia, so be sure to stay updated for both.

Can Health Care Ever Be a Human Right in the United States?

Save the Date:
December 7th, 2017

On December 7th, UNA-GP will, along with many others throughout the world, recognize the 69th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Each year, we focus on one of the 30 rights established by with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Each year, we focus on one of the 30 rights established by the United Nation with the UDHR, written and published in 1948 under the leadership of Eleanor Roosevelt. This year, our program will address the right to health care for all Americans. What is the best path to pursue that will get our country closest to the goal of comprehensive, quality care for all Americans simply because they are human? Two views will be presented: one supportive of a single payer system and the other on the side of reforms of the Affordable Care Act. The program will be held at The Philadelphia Ethical Society located at 1906 Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia, 19103, from 5:30 to 8:00 pm. The program is free, and food and drinks will be provided. Mark your calendars now and attend a lively exchange of views on the fundamental question facing all those who support the human right to health care. Look for more details in the coming months.
Upcoming Events: at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location and Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Welcome Week 2017</td>
<td>September 15—September 25</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>A full week of activities to encourage community among people of all backgrounds and to welcome refugees and immigrants to Philadelphia</td>
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UNA-GP 2017 Board Members

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
You can help the UNA-GP!

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!

The UNA-GP is a chapter of the United Nations Association of the United States of America (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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