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From Christiaan’s Workshop

A Few Words from our Executive Director

I have been busy in September and October. A bit too busy. Working on projects for the Art of Irrigation exhibit, and the UN DAY Global Citizen celebration. Making panels, making handouts, cutting pipe and drilling holes, casting footers for the flag stands and saving some money that way. Too busy to think much about global politics and happy to note that we have at the local level some exciting developments. Our mayor and our city council are dedicated to green thinking, to implementing the feasible aspects of the Paris Agreement. Our school culture may also see an uptick in can-do attitude, in bringing back the real stakeholders (parents and kids) into the decision-making structures, at the school and at the district level. We see a positive and engaging attitude among our immigrant citizens groups, where the embrace of diversity by the city is exemplified by festivals, the unity cup, and their presence in the political dialogues. I am interested in urban farming to add green to the city and make use of all that commercial wasteland. Hence my excitement to read, and in line with the policies of the World Food Program of the FAO, an article about our city’s the first indoor, vertical farm, that just started its operations. Lots going on and much of it in the form of “act locally, reflect globally”. Onward.

UN Day Celebration

On October 24, we celebrated UN Day in the same way we do every year, with a gala to celebrate a global citizen here in Philadelphia. John F Smith, III was the 2017 recipient of the Global Citizenship Award. As President of the Global Philadelphia Association, he has truly acted as an example for the Greater Philadelphia community with his work to connect our city with the world. He is one of the local leaders playing activist roles in forming our world of interrelated communities, and we are always in need of more like him.
UN Day (cont.) Whereas the areas of activism are well described in many places, the attributes of a global citizen (leader) are not always well formulated. We believe that a global citizen:… Acknowledges the innate dignity of each human being; Knows that he is the center of the universe and recognizes that there are 7 billion centers of the universe; Knows of the universality of human rights and civic responsibilities, and is passionate in demanding, granting, and protecting/facilitating them; Knows of religions and beliefs, and embraces coexistence; Knows of classes, castes and ranking, and seeks to diminish social distance; Knows of Races and Ethnicities, and is no racist; Knows of gender, and seeks no difference; Speaks his language, perhaps several, and has learned to be comfortable with the discomfort of not understanding what he doesn’t master; Sees beyond horizons, and knows that by going east he will return from the west; Is curious; Embraces science as a uniquely human enterprise of liberation of the mind; Sees borders as opportunities to cross; Seeks shelter in his castle that is his nest and wants all of humanity to have castles that are nests; Embraces his roots and his community and derives identity from that. John does all of these things and more. People worldwide will understand and appreciate his T-shirts and his exclamation “Go Union, oops, Eagles” (we hope).

Learning to live together sustainably:

Trends and Progress of SDG 4.7

“This global generation is very different from their 20th-century counterparts. Students need critical thinking skills, a level of self-awareness and confidence that will empower them to take on unfamiliar challenges. They need to be able to work on teams of diverse individuals, opinions and experiences. As they will most assuredly be faced with some of the world’s greatest challenges, they will need to ensure there are sustainable supplies of food, water, and energy; address the needs of more than seven billion people living on a planet with ever-dwindling natural resources. Whatever the challenge, they will need to innovate, work collaboratively and creatively, across borders and disciplines, and with ethics.” - Drew Noble Alexander, Headmaster, Léman Manhattan Preparatory School

Whether our city and our citizens will be slacking or leading in the global affairs of humanity will depend in large part on the attitudes, mindsets, skill and energy of our teachers. A radical re-direct is needed in our curriculum, in our toolkits, in our service learning and experiential exposures. If our students are to be tomorrow’s global citizens, today’s teachers need to be just that already. There is a fear that the global citizen’s approach will be for the well to do, for the “smart-ones”. That does not have to be. Good educational policies can assure equity in this regard. We call on our policy makers, our teacher unions, our parent organizations, our major employers, to work diligently together towards an educational enterprise and workforce that is global in outlook and spirit. Onward.
Act Locally, Reflect Globally

That’s the callout from Susan Biniaz’s article published at the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law of Columbia Law School. Susan Biniaz represented the UN Foundation and UNA-USA as she spoke at our UN Day event at the IBX building, where we honored John Smith for doing exactly that—acting locally, reflecting globally—as a global citizen leader.

Susan’s talk focused on climate action and was quite important for its focus on what local and regional policy makers can do towards implementing the “Paris Agreement”. And not only public policy makers, but large companies, universities, chambers of commerce, even citizens themselves can undertake actions in support.

I was to introduce Susan, and so I surfed the web a bit to find some of her work. It took only a few minutes to find her recent article: “A checklist of options for U.S. cities and states to engage internationally in climate action” published in May of this year.

Biniaz complimented Philadelphia for its strong commitment to climate action and she gave pointers from her checklist about how Philadelphia can build on that commitment by joining other forces on a global scale. Her article is very practical and provides a good overview. We at UNA-GP see an opportunity to bring this text to the city council and their staffers, to the Philadelphia Bar Association, the Chamber of Commerce and several of our action friends such as the Clean Air Council, Clean Water action, and PennEnvironment, among others.

Moreover, while Susan Biniaz focuses on Sustainable Development Goal 13, Climate Action, I think it a useful exercise of our chapter members, especially among the YPIC and GenUN members, to take on a similar approach towards other SDGs. I myself am going to form a small team to explore local action around SDG 6, water and sanitation, and I hope we can find other Philadelphians who can tackle other goals. Urban Farming and goals 1 and 2 could be an area, globalizing our education would be another. (SDG 3).
Hope and Love for Tomorrow
A Benefit Concert for Peace in Philadelphia

Harmony For Peace’s fifth Peace Concert at the Kimmel Center presents a special evening combining global artists and Greater Philadelphia youth orchestras and chorus in a harmonious call for peace. All performers will come together to play and sing in unison for the message of world peace. Since its inception eight years ago, over 3,500 artists have performed at HFP concerts, which have been attended by over 13,000 people. In addition, over 1,000 “Gift of Music” grants have been awarded. The concert will be held **Sunday, November 5th at the Kimmel Center for Performing Arts.** Doors open at 4:30 pm and the concert will begin at 5:00 pm. **Tickets** are available now.

Can Health Care Ever Be a Human Right in the US?

Save the Date: December 7th, 2017

On December 7th, the 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 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 experience 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.

Global Water Alliance’s Water Conference

“Groundwater, the Hidden and Disappearing Resource: Global Focus and Examples from Sub-Saharan Africa”

The Global Water Alliance’s 11th annual conference is coming up on April 5th, 2018 at Villanova University’s College of Engineering. This all-day conference (9am to 4 pm) will include panel discussions, poster presentations, and network opportunities. A job market stand for prospective employers and research institutes is planned. Continuing Education Credits are available for some professions. We will have more details as the event draws nearer. Mark your calendars and keep an eye out for further information. To receive regular email updates from GWA about Conferences, symposia and volunteer opportunities, write to info@globalwateralliance.net
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>Hope and Love for Tomorrow Benefit Concert</td>
<td>November 5th</td>
<td>Doors open at 4:30, concert begins at 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts (300 S. Broad St, Philadelphia)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>5:30—8:00 pm</td>
<td>Philadelphia Ethical Society (1906 S. Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Groundwater, the Hidden and Disappearing Resource: Global Focus and Examples from Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>April 15th, 2018</td>
<td>9:00 am—4:00 pm</td>
<td>Villanova University's College of Engineering</td>
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Spotlight on Human Rights

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, based in Washington, DC, was created in 1950 by 30 organizations. After 67 years, it remains a very active advocacy group with a membership of more than 200 women’s, civil rights, LGBT, immigrant and labor organizations. Its extensive local partnership network includes 7 groups in Pennsylvania. The Leadership Conference's work focuses on a broad range of rights issues such as voting, health care, housing, criminal justice and many others. The breadth of its work can be seen in its board leadership which comes from organizations supporting women's rights, Native and Mexican Americans, organized labor and senior citizens. A glance at its website shows that it is addressing both long term and very current rights issues. One of its unique features is that the Leadership Conference maintains a career center for job openings in the civil and human rights field throughout the USA. The Leadership Conference, through its website, offers Monitor Weekly, a summary of each week's civil/human rights news, information and events as well as Action Alerts 3-5 times per month urging contact with elected officials about key civil/human rights issues.

UNA-GP 2017 Board Members

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

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The United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia

You can help the United Nations Association!

Please donate whatever you can to the UNA-GP, and in turn, Philadelphians and beyond!

Have any ideas for fundraising events? We’re all ears! We are always in need of volunteers, no matter how much or how (seemingly!) little time you have to devote. 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

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.

Visit our website at www.una-gp.org

Check out our social media at www.facebook.com/UNAGP and www.twitter.com/UNAGP

Our office is located at 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102

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.