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In Turbulent Times, Peace Day Philly Promotes Peace for 7th Year

Philadelphia, PA - September 6, 2017 - For the seventh consecutive year, Peace Day Philly will present multiple public programs on topics related to personal, local and/or global peace over the course of one week (September 17 - September 23). As the Philadelphia region initiative for the United Nations International Day of Peace ("Peace Day"), observed annually on September 21, Peace Day Philly also encourages individuals and organizations to use the platform of Peace Day to take meaningful action for peace.

This year's global Peace Day theme, set by the United Nations, is: "*Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All*," and focuses in particular on the plight of refugees and migrants worldwide. "Our duty as a human family is to replace fear with kindness," said United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres in relation to this year's theme.

Said Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney: "Cities are the changemakers in our current climate. If we foster peace within Philadelphia, on all levels, we will be that much closer to obtaining the peace that is so desperately needed across the globe. Peace Day provides an important opportunity for cities to strengthen communities, celebrate diversity and take action for a more peaceful world."

Peace Day Philly 2017 will include programs related to: mindful activism, migrants (global & local), dialogue across difference, economics and peace, interrupting racism, being an interfaith ally, climate change, multicultural arts and internationally themed exhibitions. The full list of events, almost all free, can be found at www.peacedayphilly.org/events.

The Philadelphia Police Department will be facilitating peace and unity events in districts across the city. Schools and libraries are also invited to participate; many Peace Day activity ideas can be found at www.peacedayphilly.org.

Peace Day Philly 2017 begins on September 17, 3pm at the Philadelphia Ethical Society with a "*Peace and Love*" concert featuring The Jost Project, a highly acclaimed jazz ensemble that performs worldwide. In addition, there will be a "*Together for Peace*" concert on September 21 at 7pm, also at the Philadelphia Ethical Society. This concert will feature Jordan's Musical Ambassadors Farah Siraj and songwriter Ben Arnold. Also on September 21, PDP will present a public program in Rittenhouse Square at 11:30am which will include observing a minute of silence at 12 noon (a global activity in all time zones). PDP 2017 will close on September 23 with a collaborative, multicultural event at the Reading Terminal Market, featuring a "*Barriers Can Be Broken*" mural project involving public participation.

This year's peace skill-building activities will include trainings for high school students and teachers from two city high schools, in collaboration with Peace Praxis and supported by the Spruce Foundation. In addition, groups of elementary school children will engage in the Peace Crane Project - making peace cranes to send to children across the globe.

"Given the current national and global climate," said PDP's founder Lisa Parker, "it is a critical time to gain the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to become peacebuilders."