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PEACE DAY PHILLY PROMOTES PEACE ACROSS THE REGION SEPTEMBER 17 - SEPTEMBER 21, 2018

Philadelphia, PA (August 21, 2018) - PEACE DAY PHILLY, the local initiative for the United Nations International Day of Peace, will present events across the region for the eighth consecutive year. A wide range of programs on topics related to personal, local and global peace are scheduled. Peace Day Philly invites individuals, organizations, city offices and neighborhoods to participate in this effort through engaging in meaningful peace-related activities in their home, school or community, or by attending a Peace Day Philly program—most are free. For more about Peace Day Philly, go to www.peacedayphilly.org. The full list of 2018 events can be found at www.peacedayphilly.org/events.

In addition to these events, the Philadelphia Police Department will host various free programs in districts across the city related to peace, including many with youth in partnership with schools.

“Peace Day is a terrific opportunity for each of us to reflect on what we can do to build greater peace within ourselves, our communities, and our city,” said Mayor Jim Kenney. “Now more than ever it is important that we celebrate our diversity and come together in a show of peace and love for one another. On Peace Day, I encourage all Philadelphians to be agents of peace by fostering positive engagement that will carry on throughout the year.”

This year’s global theme, set by the United Nations, is “*The Right to Peace - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70.*” United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres said, “It is time all nations and all people live up to the words of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which recognizes the inherent dignity and equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human race. Let us stand up for human rights for all in the name of peace for all.”

“At a time when compassion, civil discourse, and human rights can be absent - not just across the world, but in our own communities - we must make room in our lives to build positive peace,” said Lisa Parker, Co-Founder of Peace Day Philly. “We share Peace Day with all of humanity, and it can be a powerful beginning for making more conscious choices to build peace and greater understanding on a daily basis.”



- Monday, 9/17, 5:30pm: **Forging Peace: Where Do We Go From Here?** featuring speakers Rev. David Brown and youth poet L'tajh Carter. How was social change forwarded in the wake of Martin Luther King Jr's Assassination on April 4, 1968? How can we, in the current context, inform and sustain our activism? Friends Center. FREE.
- Tuesday, 9/18, 7:00pm: **Interfaith Art & Justice.** Workshop exploring how art and interfaith understanding are intersecting in Philadelphia, and how art may be used to engage social change in their own community. For anyone who values creativity and believes it to be a vital tool in increasing peace. Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia. FREE.
- Wednesday, 9/19, 5:30pm: **Economics, Peace and Human Rights.** Speaker Michelle Breslauer, Director of Programs for the Institute for Economics & Peace, will speak to what the main threats to and opportunities for peace are today. The IEP is the world's leading think tank dedicated to analyzing peace. Friends Center. Also part of Welcoming Week. FREE.
- Thursday 9/20, 4pm: **"Because of the War" Film Screening.** A special presentation of the documentary film highlighting stories of four brilliant women singers from Liberia. Paschalville Library. FREE.
- Thursday, 9/20, 6pm: **Compassion and Wisdom: Peace in Ourselves and in the World.** One hour of all-levels yoga and one of hour of meditation/discussion related to cultivating peace within and in the world. Can attend one or both parts. Phila. Ethical Society. FREE.
- Friday, 9/21 (Peace Day), 10am-1pm: **Push for Peace Coalition - Peace Day Philly 2018.** Anti-violence & peace resource tables 10am-1pm; creative peace art activities 10am-11:30pm. Program 11:30am-12:30pm including talk, performance and global minute of silence for peace at 12 noon. City Hall Courtyard. FREE.
- Friday, 9/21 (Peace Day) time TBD: **Mantra-Thon for Peace** - six two-hour segments with devoted to chanting a Buddhist mantra dedicated to peace for the local/global community. All spiritual traditions welcome. Chenrezig Tibetan Buddhist Center. FREE.
- Friday, 9/21 (Peace Day), 2:30pm: **Global Guides: Friday Edition.** Tours of the new Middle East Galleries with Penn Museum's Global Guides—recent immigrants from Iraq or Syria. Penn Museum. Also part of Welcoming Week. Free with museum admission.
- Friday 9/21 (Peace Day), 6:00pm: **8th Annual Sing Along for Peace.** Join Hugh Taft-Morales, Leader of the Philadelphia Ethical Society, for an informal sing along of new and old peace songs. Lyrics and lemonade provided. Always a fun and unifying Peace Day tradition. Outside the Ethical Society. FREE.
- Friday, 9/21 (Peace Day) 7pm: **Peace Day Philly Benefit Concert** featuring musicians from the Philadelphia Orchestra as well as immigrant and former refugee musicians. Philadelphia Ethical Society. Also part of Welcoming Week. \$15 suggested donation with all proceeds benefiting the refugee resettlement organization HIAS PA.