

WFWP New Jersey's International Day of Peace - Passport to Peace: Culture, Connection, Community

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On September 13, the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) New Jersey chapter hosted Passport to Peace: Culture, Connection, Community at the Bloomfield Civic Center in celebration of the International Day of Peace. At a time when the news so often highlights division, this program offered a refreshing space for people to come together, celebrate their heritage, and experience the beauty of other cultures with open hearts.



The event featured nine cultural tables representing the Dominican Republic, Ghana, Latvia, Ireland, Japan, the Philippines, Germany, Pakistan, and Turkey. Each table showcased traditional dress, art, music, books, and more - while also sharing delicious treats from their country, which quickly became a highlight of the day. Guests received a "passport" to be stamped with country flag stickers as they

explored, creating a playful way to journey through the world in one room.



The afternoon was filled with meaningful moments. A "karate" dance performance, traditional music trivia, and a lively presentation on the cultural importance of basket weaving in Ghana offered participants interactive ways to experience different traditions. Guests also engaged in an informal "Bridge of Peace," where they paired with someone from a different background and shared what they love about their own culture. In this simple yet profound exchange, participants discovered connection beyond words, heart to heart.



Katarina Connery, WFWP USA President, shared the vision behind the program with a quote from WFWP Founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon: "People often think that politics moves the world, but that is not the case. It is culture and art that move the world. It is affection, not reason, that touches people in their innermost being. When hearts become receptive, ideologies and political regimes can change."

With about 50 people in attendance - young and old, families and individuals - the room was filled with laughter, learning, and a spirit of peace. More than just a cultural fair, Passport to Peace was a living reminder that when we open ourselves to one another, we can build bridges across divides and move closer to the dream of one global family.