

'Life & Eternity' in new Peace Embassy

Written by Barbara Grabner

Bratislava, 18.10.2021. The first public lecture after the grand opening of our Peace Embassy (21.9.2021) we called "Life & Eternity" like the title of the new book by Johannes Stampf, a peace activist living in Vienna.

In times of despair and insecurity people need to see beyond the horizon of daily life. Many lost friends or relatives who were afflicted by or even died during the pandemic; depression is spreading. Therefore, UPF Slovakia decided to raise the spirit by providing an uplifting experience. Our event was supported by the Slovak *Women's Federation for World Peace* (WFWP).

We distributed countless leaflets, posters and mailed invitations. But until the last hour before start we had no clue if and how many people would show up. Registration was mandatory but that does not mean that people do come. Since February 2020 we had held no live lecture. How relieved we were when the hall was fairly filled, and guests we had not seen for long showed up! There were also some new faces among the audience; believers and non-believers likewise attended. UPF Slovakia president Milos Klas greeted the audience with delight; he served also as translator since he speaks fluent German.

Since some of our regular guests are agnostics or even atheists, a broad approach was needed. Beyond doubt Mr. Stampf has outstanding insights which are intelligible to people of all creeds and convictions. His logical argumentation was well received. He said: "People who ignore the eternal dimension of life neglect their own future," and "You cannot find peace in afterlife if your life here on earth was conflict ridden." It is so difficult to negotiate or enact peace because "peace is the fruit of something - it comes naturally if you practice a life for the sake of others and mutual prosperity."

After the lecture he was appointed *Ambassador for Peace*. Mr. Stampf definitely lives up to this title since a long time. So, he welcomed the diploma cheerfully. Our guests bought his book, available in English and German, and asked him questions until he left to catch his train. The wife of the late UPF president Robert Harencar told him, that she looks forward for a sequel of "Life & Eternity".

Milos Klas commented: "In previous years we have held lectures at various facilities, always with a certain time limit. Now guests can stay as long as they wish, and share their hearts with one another, get a drink or some refreshment and study the UPF literature in a relaxed atmosphere."

