

## 2016 International Day of Peace was celebrated by UPF Novosibirsk, Russia

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The International Day of Peace was celebrated in the Novosibirsk Regional Youth Library on September 21 with a program called "The Way of Young People toward a Culture of Peace." The event was organized jointly by the Universal Peace Federation, library staff, students, and all those who wished to support the ideals of world peace.

After the official opening, the organizers gave a presentation about the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals, and spoke of their own experiences in implementing the goals.

Pavel spoke about using a solar panel to charge a smartphone in field conditions. Alina told about a project to make books and printed materials available to elderly people. Yulia described her experience in the field of environmental protection. Lydia talked about the practice of separate waste collection. Larisa spoke about gender equality and importance of beekeeping support. Dmitry spoke about the International Peace Highway project, which would unite peoples through a road system.

A brief survey of passers-by and acquaintances, held the day before, showed that many people had no idea that September 21 was the International Day of Peace. The participants decided that they would promote this day with the greatest possible number of people in different parts of Russia. In this they were helped by "Goodness Mail," a project that started in July 2015 in which postcards and kind words are used to make the world better and people happier.

The participants filled out 23 postcards with congratulations and messages of peace and goodness to send to different cities of Russia: Moscow, St. Petersburg, Irkutsk, Nizhnevartovsk, Perm, Kineshma, Kandalaksha, Arsenyev, Nakhodka, Kolonna, Zheleznogorsk, Tosno, Petrozavodsk, and others. For many participants it was the first experience in that kind of project, but everyone liked the idea.

The participants proposed creating greeting cards designed for different holidays (International Day of Families, World Environment Day) and use them to congratulate people from different parts of our country and the world.

—Lydia M. Sleptsova

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