

Garden Party 2015. (by Christiaan)

As Kathleen wrote to me “Overall the party was great. The yard was beautiful, the food was great, and the party as a whole was very well organized. I liked how there were short speeches in the middle of the party, as a reminder of the issues which brought everyone together. I also liked that there were flyers and brochures at the registration table so that people could learn more about the UNA-GP’s initiatives as well as the causes of other organizations that the guests were representing. The environment was very friendly, and it seemed like everyone had a great time”. Liz wrote, “Wonderful event celebrating #democracy in #philadelphia @ UNAGP Christiaan Morssink Manisha Patel”.

Indeed it was a good party. We bested our fundraising target by 400 dollars, we made a few new members, and we had several worthwhile discussions going (See elsewhere for the “talking points”). Moreover, many admirable hats were worn and compliments were plenty. The weather gods kept everything hot(so hot that several folks never showed up, feeling the heat), but also dry. We had a good number of members of the sorority AKA, as well as members of the rotary club Madrugadores. On a personal note, I was very happy that the president of the American Public Health Association (who just happens to be my wife -- a coincidence, of course) came to mingle and socialize. Quite a privilege.

Of course mistakes were made. Our sound volunteers had to drop out at the last minute, leaving me with a sound system and a mike that were incompatible; this made it more difficult to hear the speakers; I got my ears boxed for the selection of some songs, and for forgetting to “get the mike” to Zabeth; moreover, I forgot the picture taking rituals. Many pictures were taken, but I only received a few, and only those with me in it. See below.

We showed off the piece “Three Faiths” by Alex Bard and he came prepared to talk about the inspiration behind his work. There was also a bamboo bike, courtesy of BoOomers International in Ghana, symbolizing sustainable, green and fair trade. And my cooking skills were on full display. Not much food was left, some indication that folks liked it.

The Garden Party is not possible without volunteer support. So a big thank you to Kathleen, Carolyn, Randall, Lucille, and Judy.

Please save the date for next year’s garden party: July 17th, 2016.