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Citizens For Peace Minutes 03-14-07

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CITIZENS FOR PEACE

Minutes

March 14, 2007

The meeting opened at 7:10 pm with a welcome from Colleen Mills. She was excited to inform the group that we just had a training session with representatives from Wayne State University to be part of their digital commons website. Bob Frank, our IT Coordinator, explained further that this will compliment our current blog and help people find us better as we will be in a section of WSU's website with other Peace and Justice groups.

March 30th Fundraiser:

Colleen reminded the group of our upcoming Library Peace Collection fundraiser. She said we have already donated \$1500 to the library for the purchase of books on Peace and Nonviolence. Colleen went to the Civic Center Library and was able to look at some of the books already purchased. Rosemary Doyle, our Education Director, expressed how pleased she was to find so many titles to place on the list – over 300! She said the event promises to be casual, informal and fun!

Announcements:

Colleen met with DAPJN (Detroit Area Peace and Justice Network) last week. She said there are 30 organizations working in the Detroit metro area on Peace and Justice. There's lots of good energy!

Colleen also announced that the Michigan Democratic Party has adopted the Department of Peace bill and that Rep. Dale Kildee has signed on. Little by little we're making progress.

Regarding our season for nonviolence: in March we focus on hunger.

- Mary Albertson spoke about a wonderful organization, RESULTS that is really making a difference around the world. Their bumper sticker reads: "Peace begins when hunger ends." She also spoke about the Global Poverty Act and the One campaign.
- Colleen pointed out the websites regarding hunger on our activity list handout.
- Donna Bowman spoke of the work she has been doing with Focus Hope. She explained the criteria for receiving help and spoke about some of the senior citizens and families she has helped over the many years of her involvement. It is very rewarding work.

Penny Golden was introduced to the group. She is the Editor of the "Body, Mind and Spirit Guide" which is distributed to 900 stores in Michigan and is read by 10,000 people. She explained there is a new website: www.bodymindspiritguide.com and welcomed all to take a look. She also invited us to submit articles, poetry and announcements to her for publication. She feels strongly that reading is special because you can be touched in a moment by it. Her goal is to spread Love and Laughter to many. She also invited the group to a limited showing of the movie, Illusion, starring Kirk Douglas. It is a moving story of a man going through a review of his life. It will be shown on two dates only at the Farmington Civic Theater.

Officer Reports:

Treasurer, Rick Abdo had current copies of the Treasurer's report for review. He thanked Kim Korona for auditing the books. He pointed out that the monies for the Peace Collection Project are separate, as this is part of the Education Fund. Kim complimented Rick on how well he keep our Treasury records.

Secretary, Linda Lieder, sent out minutes via email and distributed a copy for review.

We viewed a selection from the recent Department of Peace Conference in Washington, D.C. Dr. Michael Beckwith spoke at the Sunday morning session and had a very powerful message:

- Although he felt he was speaking to the choir, he stated he was really speaking to history makers!
- He stated, “We are moved to do whatever it takes to create a peaceful world. We are actually seeing it happen now with acts of love and kindness and compassion. Acknowledge, praise and celebrate these acts and you will vibrate with it.
- The DoP is already occurring now! We represent the next stage of evolution. We are the first monkeys in the next evolutionary process! We are spiritual warriors breaking down barriers and including all in a loving world.”
- Thoughts that emerge from a field of Love are so much stronger than those that are from hate or a sense of separation. The field of Love generated by all those in attendance is so strong!

He spoke of the Five Pillars of Fire:

1. Loving tomorrow
2. A willingness to change and expand our perception
3. Embrace the spiritual principles that govern the universe
4. Live to Give – Find a way to be in service. Give Love, Happiness and Joy!
5. A way of life must be created in which a spirit of Peace takes over, and others will notice.

He ended with the thought that something magnificent is taking place - the idea of a world that works for everyone.

After the video, Colleen spoke of her recent trip to California and her visit to Dr. Beckwith’s church, which is a building in the middle of an industrial neighborhood. She also went to James Twyman’s concert while there. She invited the group to take a look at the spiritual posters on the table and to take a spiritual message card on the way out.

She thanked all for coming and the meeting closed at 8:40 pm.

