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Citizens For Peace Minutes 06-12-07

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CITIZENS FOR PEACE

Minutes

June 12, 2007

The meeting opened at 7:00 pm with a welcome by Colleen Mills. She thanked her core Peacekeepers and introduced each one:

- Inner Peace Director, Caroline Trout, mentioned Deepak Chopra has a new book, "How to Know God". She shared a selection from his previous book, "Peace is the Way", that explains why ending the war hasn't worked. It has failed largely because it requires personal transformation from long standing beliefs, and no one has tried it.
  She also shared his Seven Practices for Peace, a daily guide to living Peace. Colleen said she would email these practices to the group. We then participated in a brief meditation in which we focused on Peace, Harmony, Laughter, Love and Joy. She closed with the quote from Gandhi: "Be the change you want to see in the world."
- Secretary, Linda Lieder, distributed a copy of the previously emailed minutes.
- Treasurer, Rick Abdoo, was not in attendance this evening; however Ann Abdoo read the Treasurer's report. Colleen added that a check from the Cranbrook Peace Foundation is in the mail to us.
- Education Director, Rosemary Doyle, spoke about the Speakers Bureau that is starting up. Six people have volunteered to learn how to speak in front of groups more effectively in an effort to educate others about the Department of Peace and Nonviolence.
- Colleen spoke about our latest fundraising effort at Max & Erma's restaurant. We raised $375.25 that day which represented 77 bills turned in for the effort. She said there were many librarians who participated and they all seem to be very impressed with the Peace Collection project.
- Information Technology Director, Bob Frank, spoke about our blog, which now has a link to the Wayne State University Digital Commons website. There is also a link to the Peace Collection there. Ann Abdoo spoke to O&E Editor, Dave Varga, regarding publishing past letters to the Editor on the Digital Commons website. He had no problem with this.
- Ann Abdoo, Research and Development Director, spoke about our non-profit status. Progress is being made. She noted that we already have a Charitable Trust status with the State of Michigan which allows people to get a tax deduction for any donations made to the Education Fund.

<u>Other Announcements</u>:

- Colleen thanked Kim Korona for her very informative presentation last month regarding Humane Living. The room was filled to capacity and everyone went away with an abundance of information. Rosemary Doyle stated she has information from the OXFAM organization regarding Fair Trade coffee.

- Colleen announced that in lieu of an Inner Peace Retreat this year, all are encouraged to attend the Present Moment Meditations at the Livonia Senior Center or the Weekend Summer Retreat this July, in Vanderbilt, MI, presented by Kathy Henning.

Special Presentation:

The group watched the keynote address from this year's National DoP Conference, made by Dr. Deepak Choprah. Founder of the Alliance for a New Humanity, he has written 49 books and transformed our consciousness. He was introduced my Marianne Williamson, who was so impressed with him after reading his book, "Quantum Healing". She said he has been a wonderful example to us.

Dr. Choprah started his talk explaining what it was like when he first came to the United States to practice medicine, as there was a shortage of medical doctors at that time. He had nothing when he arrived, but he learned very quickly by first working in the emergency room of the Plainview, New Jersey hospital. He had never seen a live patient before then, nor had he ever seen a television set. It took him only a few hours to get used to the fast pace and he quickly became addicted to the adrenaline high of working in that environment.

He said he felt very privileged to be at the Conference to discuss the DoP, and expressed there is a deeper domain of awareness that is allowing this movement to happen. He then went on to discuss various insights of our consciousness. Some of the highlights follow:

- His training was to become a superb technician, not a healer. To heal is to know the soul.
- The War on Terror, Drugs, Aids and Hunger is based on the thought that violence is the only way to solve our problems. This is also how he saw the Medical profession attack illness – with tougher and tougher drugs.
- We need to see the deeper causes of distress in our society, ecosystem, etc. through the many ways we can view the world: through our Senses (the eyes of the flesh), our Intellect (the eyes of the mind) and through a deeper way – through the eyes of our spirit soul.

He went on to say that it is impossible to solve all the world's problems one at a time. Whatever is happening out there is a projection of what is happening in our collective souls. Today, there is a very deep distress in our collective consciousness. We need a shift in our collective consciousness in order to make real changes in the world.

- We need to evolve into a new way of being. In the history of humanity, there has always been war. We have been a violent species since our hunter/gatherer days to now. We need to sober up and stop romanticizing the human condition. We are living in perilous times where ancient habits, coupled with modern capacities, are a recipe for danger. Thus, modern technology can be used for destruction.
- We have to find a way to evolve our consciousness. We're the only species that is aware that we are aware. There is a need for a Metabiological Evolution - Survival of the Wisest, which involves the awakening of our dormant inner potential, through shared suffering. If we do not feel anguish for all the suffering in the world, then there can be no compassion. With no compassion, there is no love.
- Love without action is meaningless.

He went on to say that today, in the world of science, there is a movement to understand consciousness. Our world is in a state of discontinuity. Everything is fundamentally a vibration and in discontinuity there are only waves of possibilities. We need to understand that everything is interconnected, if we are able to take the next leap in consciousness.

- We have to embrace the uncertainty of our current world in order to take the next leap. We have a physical body as well as a universal body.
- A metamorphosis – radical change in form – is needed. When a caterpillar changes into a butterfly a radical change in creativity has occurred. And, the same information code that makes the butterfly's wings move, is the same code that makes the human heart beat.
- We must find an awakening in our hearts, a longing and yearning – it's the only way to create this change.
- Look at the distress in the world as our nutritive soup. Ancient Sanskrit words remind us to:
  Remember who you are. Do something for others. Connect with others like yourselves.
  Together we can find ecstasy and make collective change.

Dr. Choprah reminded us that there are DoP activists located everywhere in our world. We must connect with them in order to effect change. He closed with the words from an ancient poem:

> You split me, and you tore my heart open,
>
> And you filled me with love…
>
> I have become like paradise
>
> And with that, my soul is healed.

Colleen asked that we take a few moments to share our thoughts about this inspiring message with those at our table.

Before closing the meeting, Colleen introduced founding member, Vincenza Mueller, who is back home after a long assignment in Texas. It is good to see her again and we are grateful for her efforts in organizing our group.

The meeting closed at 9:00 pm.