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## Citizens For Peace Minutes 08-08-07

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CITIZENS FOR PEACE  
Minutes  
August 8, 2007

The meeting opened at 7:00 pm with a five minute meditation on transformation, lead by Kathy Henning. Colleen mills welcomed those in attendance and asked the visitors to introduce themselves.

**Announcements:**

- Colleen stated that Nagasaki event info was published in the Observer & Eccentric three times, thanks to Editor, Dave Varga.
- The Yoga for Peace day, at Dearborn's Ford Field, was a great success.
- Clara Lawrence announced the Walk for Peace event, scheduled for Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>, begins at 10:00 am and the proceeds will go to the Peace Alliance. We'll walk four miles down Woodward, from Ferndale to Palmer Park, which will provide greater visibility.
- On Sunday, Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>, volunteers are needed for the Arlington West exhibit at Grand Circus Park in Detroit. The Opening Ceremony begins Saturday, Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00 pm. There will be volunteers (peace keepers/greeters) there for six days, 24 hours a day. It is a great undertaking involving three tons of crosses/monuments for the slain Michigan soldiers. The exhibit is sponsored by all of the area DAPJN groups.
- Ann Abdo reported on our current IRS non-profit status.

After a brief break for refreshments, the group watched the movie, The Reluctant Prophet, by Fr. George Zabelka. This 1988 documentary explores Zabelka's trips to Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan to ask for forgiveness for these terrible crimes.

The film included footage of the Pantex Nuclear Bomb plant in Amarillo, Texas, that is producing 5-8 mega bombs per day and transporting 180 bombs every three months for the Trident subs. The film also showed how we knowingly napalmed Dresden. Napalm is immoral and we knew it meant death for all civilians, yet we did it. Without repentance for these actions, there can be no reconciliation. Zabelka's response to seeing Hiroshima and Nagasaki, months after the bombing was threefold:

1. Compassion – which began his transformation to becoming a pacifist
2. Education – when he began reading about Martin Luther King Jr.'s work and early Christian writing
3. Action – when he started getting involved in speaking against militarism and racism

Fr. Zabelka, who was a Pastor at a Flint, MI church at the time of the civil rights movement, came to understand that the theology of racism was the same as that of war. Active resistance is the message of Christ, and thus the Peace of Christ.

After the movie, it was announced that Peace Action, the largest peace organization in the country, is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They will mark the event on November 11<sup>th</sup> at the Southfield Westin Hotel with special guest speaker, Randi Rhodes. The Randi Rhodes Show is a three hour radio program in the United States combining live interview and call-in commentary with a progressive bent. The show originated in New York City and airs on Air America.

Peace Action also has invited us to join them on the Peace Train to Chicago, on October 27<sup>th</sup>.

Colleen thanked all for coming this evening. With no further business, the meeting closed at 9:00 pm.