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Citizens For Peace Minutes 11-13-07

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CITIZENS FOR PEACE
Minutes
November 13, 2007 – 4th Anniversary

The 4th Anniversary meeting of the Citizens for Peace opened at 7:00 pm with a welcome by President, Colleen Mills. She introduced Yusif Barakat, who led the group in a Native American Blessing: Prayer of the Six Directions. The many members and visitors then enjoyed a fabulous International themed buffet, with delicious dishes made by members. After enjoying the diverse selection of foods, Colleen shared a DVD clip of the Live Earth concert featuring Melissa Etheridge singing a very inspiring song – “Imagine That”.

Inner Peace Director, Caroline Trout, distributed copies of a selection titled “Decide to Be a Global Citizen”, from a book by former United Nations member, Robert Muller, which was a nice compliment to Yusif’s blessing.

Announcements:

- Education Director, Rosemary Doyle, spoke about the recent High Tea and Presentation for teachers in our area. The presentation, by Bill Sower, was on Restorative Practices, which is used in schools in an effort to bring together victims and students involved in acts of violence. Forty-five people attended, ten of whom were teaching interns. It was a very impactful and intense subject, modeled after Restorative Justice programs and is designed for the most difficult students. Rosemary admitted she left the seminar with a great feeling of hope.

Rosemary thanked all the members who helped with the seminar. She reported that there will be a survey of those who attended to help determine how to implement these practices in the schools.

- Colleen announced there will be a Nonviolent Communication seminar on December 8th, taught by Rosemary.

Treasurer’s Report: Rick Abdoo distributed copies the reports for the CFP and CFP Education Fund as he reported on our financial status.

Ann Abdoo, our R & D Director, was asked to report about our IRS status; however she instead sang the praises of our Education Director, Rosemary Doyle. After informing the group how the Peace Collection project came to fruition under the direction of Rosemary’s vision and hard work, she presented Rosemary with a certificate of appreciation: Master of Library Science. Rosemary was quite surprised and taken by this praise and presentation and thanked the many members who helped her accomplish this, and many other tasks, which are a labor of love.

Secretary’s Report: Linda Lieder had previously emailed a copy of the minutes of the last meeting. She was pleased to report that with the help of IT Director, Bob Frank, the minutes for 2007 are now located on the Digital Commons section of Wayne State University’s website. You can access the site and minutes from a link on our BlogSpot: www.citizensforpeace11.blogspot.com.

Linda took a few moments of time to thank R & D Director, Ann Abdoo, for her tireless efforts in obtaining our non-profit status with the IRS. Linda has worked closely with Ann on this and knows how many reports need to be filed and how detailed the reports need to be. Ann has done an excellent job and should be commended for her efforts. She presented Ann with a certificate of appreciation: Master of Jurisprudence. Ann too, was quite surprised by this praise and special presentation. She has enjoyed her work and membership in such a worthwhile organization.

Linda shared a selection offered by the Center for Holistic Living at this year’s Bliss Fest, in Harbor Springs, MI. She then took some time to celebrate and thank our President, Colleen Mills and her husband, George, our PR Director. From the inception of our group four years ago, just look how far we have come in educating our community on the importance of the Department of Peace legislation and nonviolent means of dealing with conflict in our society.

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Thanks to the tireless efforts of Colleen and George, retired educators, the Citizens for Peace have prospered. Colleen has been collecting binders of information chronicling our efforts over the past four years. With their continued support and leadership, we will continue to prosper and fulfill our mission.

As a collective thank you from the group, Linda presented Colleen and George with a stained glass wall hanging depicting a hummingbird and peace sign.

“Legends say that hummingbirds float free of time, carrying our hopes for love, joy and celebration. The hummingbird’s delicate grace reminds us that life is rich, beauty is everywhere, every personal connection has meaning and that laughter is life’s sweetest creation.”

What a fitting description of the hearts of Colleen and George Mills. The many members and guests applauded their efforts, as well.

Colleen expressed a heartfelt thanks to the members for this surprise. She admired the beautiful wall hanging and sentiment behind it. She and George thanked everyone who has helped on the many projects this year. Colleen and George have thoroughly enjoyed spreading our message of Peace and look forward to our collective efforts as we begin a new year!

Colleen noted the many items on our upcoming-events handout. Mary Albertson spoke about a fundraiser for her other passion, RESULTS, to help end world hunger. She has tickets if anyone wants to donate, or you can go to their website, www.results.org.

Prior to the close of the meeting, Yusif Barakat presented to the Citizens for Peace, a poster depicting a mandala with the symbols of eleven major religions, and one blank for you to fill in. It is a message of Truth, Peace and Love. He stated “There will be Peace on Earth when there is Peace among Religions”. He then led the group, in a circle of love, with a closing Native American prayer.

The 4th Anniversary celebration came to a close at 8:50 pm.