

4-1-2008

Citizens For Peace Minutes 03-12-08

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Recommended Citation

Lieder, Linda J., "Citizens For Peace Minutes 03-12-08" (2008). *Citizens for Peace*. Paper 17.
http://digitalcommons.wayne.edu/cpcs_cfp/17

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CITIZENS FOR PEACE
Minutes
March 12, 2008

The meeting opened at 7:00 pm with a welcome by President, Colleen Mills.
Many thanks to Pat VanVuren for taking notes of this meeting in Linda Lieder's absence!

Officer Reports:

Treasurer, Rick Abdo, distributed copies of the current report and discussed the status of the Citizens for Peace and CFP Education fund.

Education Dir., Rosemary Doyle, announced that there will be a week-long summer training session on Restorative Practices.

R&D Dir., Ann Abdo, gave an update on our non-profit status.

Organizational Dir., Dottie Ochala, said she has media materials for members to borrow.

IT Dir., Bob Frank, reminded the group of our blog, which can be found by searching Google with Citizens for Peace blog. The CFP link comes up first in the search list.

Announcements:

- "The Moses Code" film will be shown on April 4th at Madonna University at 7:00 pm - \$10.00.
- The Charlie King concert will be held on April 5th at Unity of Livonia at 7:00 pm - \$15.00.
- Fundraiser at Max & Erma's on April 28th. All proceeds will go to the library Peace Collection.
- The MCHR Friday film festival starts on April 18th at Madonna University, with the film "War Made Easy". Other films will include "Beloved Community", "American Blackout" and "The Big Sellout".

Special Presentation:

The film "**Building a World Beyond War: A Roadmap for Citizens**" was viewed by the group. It is meant to inspire us to look more deeply at shared assumptions that must shift in order for us to accept differences and adopt practical, nonviolent alternatives to war. The film also presents hopeful examples of effective strategies that result in safety and security for all the world's people.

The Mission: Beyond War is a community of people from around the world who are committed to ending the use of warfare in this century. They explore, model and promote practical ways of resolving conflict and realizing our shared humanity. Beyond War understands that conflict is inevitable, but war is not.

The **Guiding Principles** upon which Beyond War is based:

- War is obsolete.
- We are ONE on this planet.
- The means are the ends in the making.

Commitment to three **Core Practices:**

- I will resolve conflict; I will not use violence.
- I will maintain an attitude of goodwill; I will not preoccupy myself with an enemy.
- I will work together with others to build a world beyond war.

These Principles and Practices can serve as a road map for resolving many confusing, emotionally charged conflicts. Other points brought out in the film:

- War does not defeat terrorism, it increases it.
- The cost of war (aside from the military cost in dollars and lives): increased civilian deaths and injuries; psychological damages; infrastructure is destroyed; as military funds increase, funds available for cities, health, education, etc. decrease.
- Nuclear war is a no win situation – all die.
- To move beyond war, we need to identify with the world and all humankind.

Suggested strategies include:

- Maintain an attitude of goodwill
- Calm, clear and compassionate ideas to resolve problems
- Contribute to developing nations
- The U.S. should support and adhere to International Law by joining the International Court of Justice.
- Cooperation with all other nations.
- The U.S. should participate in United Nations International Treaties.

Discussion groups were formed after the film to discuss ways we can move beyond war.

For more information about the Beyond War organization, go to their website: www.beyondwar.org.

Colleen thanked all in attendance for coming and contributing their ideas.

The meeting closed at 9:00 pm.

Peace cannot be kept by force.

It can only be achieved by understanding.

~ Albert Einstein