

Peace and Justice Digital Resource Center

Citizens for Peace

Wayne State University

Year 2009

Citizens for Peace Activities and
Accomplishments 2008

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Monthly Membership Meetings: Second Tuesday of each Month: 7 – 9 pm at Unity Church of Livonia

Since November 11, 2003, Citizens for Peace has held monthly meetings that are advertised and open to the general public. Each meeting has a program.

Dec. 9: Members shared their favorite readings about peace

Nov. 11: 5th anniversary party – theme “Imagine Peace”

Oct. 14: View & discussed film, “Humanity Ascending”

Sept. 9: Speaker Dr. A.T. Ariyaratne, Nobel Peace Prize nominee, Gandhi Peace Prize winner, Founder of Sarvodaya

Aug. 12: Viewed and discussed film, “The Power of Forgiveness”

July 8: Beyond War Study Group

June 10: Beyond War Study Group

May 13: Professor Michael Whitty gave talk on “Inner and Outer Peace”

Apr. 8: Robert Weir gave presentation on “Incentive & Instruction from Christ, Gandhi & King”

Mar. 11: Viewed and discussed the video Beyond War

Feb 12: Kathy Henning, meditation teacher, led us in meditation on love and blessings in honor of St. Valentine’s Day

Jan 8: Rudy Simons member of Fellowship of Reconciliation reported on his trip to Iran.

Speaking Engagements

The Peace Speakers Committee members give presentations to diverse audiences which allow us to explain the legislation for a cabinet level Department of Peace and to gain support for the passage of this legislation.

May 3: AAUW (American Association of University Women) Michigan Convention, Marriott Hotel at Detroit Metro Airport

Mar. 27: Garden City Kiwanis Club

Mar. 12: Livonia Democratic Club

Feb. 15: Madonna University at opening of art exhibit "Our Throwaway Culture"

Feb. 13: Livonia Democratic Club

Jan 21: Plymouth Optimist Club

Tabling

This activity involves setting up a table at an event and passing out information and talking with people about the Department of Peace legislation. It gives us the opportunity to explain the concept of peace-making at the federal level of government.

Dec. 10: Human Rights Day at Hope United Methodist, Southfield

Dec. 7: Share & Care Fair in Livingston County

Nov. 8: Body, Mind, Spirit festival at Macomb Community College

Oct. 4: Irene's Holistic Palooza, Southfield

Sept. 25: Schoolcraft College DAZE, an opportunity for organization to make students aware of what is available to them in the community

Aug. 10: Yoga for Peace at Ford Field, Dearborn

Apr. 26: Body, Mind, Spirit Festival at Macomb County Community College

Mar. 20: Multi-Cultural Fair at Schoolcraft College

Feb. 15: Opening of "our Throwaway Culture" an exhibit at Madonna University

Jan. 26: Michigan Coalition for Human Rights and the Huntington Woods Peace Project event, "Iran: Threat or Another Lie," with speakers Scott Ritter, former U.N. Arms Inspector in Iraq and Jeff Cohen, Author of Cable News Confidential at First United Methodist Church of Ferndale.

Jan 23 & 24: Schoolcraft College DAZE, an opportunity for organizations to make students aware of what is available to them

Jan. 21: The Huron Valley (school district) Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration; Multi-Cultural Luncheon & Community Fair; Milford High School

Special Events

June: 20-22: Presentations about Citizens for Peace activities given by members at the Midwest Regional Department of Peace Conference in Schaumburg, Illinois

Jan. 12: Congressman Dennis Kucinich spoke on the Need for a Cabinet Level Department of Peace at Unity of Livonia

Fundraising Events

Sept. 13: Walk for Peace. Fundraiser for The Peace Alliance.

Apr. 28: Coupon for lunch or Dinner at Max & Erma's Restaurant. Twenty percent of the bill given to Citizens for Peace was used to buy more books for the Peace Collection.

Apr. 5: Concert: Songs & Satire of Charlie King at Unity of Livonia. Profits split between Peace Action and Citizens for Peace.

Apr. 4: Movie: Moses Code at Madonna University. Profits split between Center for Inner Peace and Well-Being, and Citizens for Peace.

Human Rights Film Festival

This film series is co-sponsored with Michigan Coalition for Human Rights (MCHR) and Madonna University in Livonia. This is a way to engage people to think about peace with justice and care of the earth. After each movie, there is a person with expertise in the subject to lead a discussion and answer questions.

Fall Series at Madonna University

Sept 26: Blood & Oil

Oct. 3: Election Day

Oct. 10: On the Line

Oct. 17: White Privilege

Spring Series at Madonna University

Apr. 18: War Made Easy

Apr. 25: Beloved Community

May 2: American Blackout

May 9: The Big Sellout

Working with Other Organizations

There are many organizations working for a more peaceful world. By working together we hope to develop a broad base of support of people who can use their influence to help change policies of our federal government.

Sept. 21: "One Peace," celebrating United Nations International Day of Peace with Dr. A.T. Ariyaratne, Michael Bernard & Rickie Byars Beckwith; Planning Committee: Saryodaya, Childhelp Mich., New Dawn Leadership, Michigan Stop the Bombs Campaign, Church of Today West, Finding Alternatives to Military Enlistment, Body Mind Spirit Magazine, Blue Pear Productions, Peace Unity Church, Yoga Alliance, Center for Multicultural Affairs, Students for Animal Rights, EMU, Hope United Methodist Church, Citizens for Peace

Sept. 19: Dr. Ari's talk at the Fisher Mansion, Detroit

Sept. 17: Dr. Ari's seminar at Eastern Michigan University

Sept. 16: Dr. Ari's seminar at Schoolcraft College with the Student Peace Alliance

Sept. 12: Dr. Ari's talk at the International Center for Spiritual Growth

Sept. 11: Dr. Ari's talk at Hope United Method Church, Southfield; "Remembering 9/11

Aug. 6: From Hiroshima to Hope viewed film "Conviction" at First United Methodist Church, Royal Oak with Peace Action of Michigan

Apr. 20: Peace Vigil at Livonia Veterans War Memorial with the Livonia Democratic Club

Mar. 20: Information table at the Schoolcraft Multicultural Fair with Schoolcraft Peace Alliance

Mar.11: Gave suggestions to Schoolcraft Peace Alliance and Schoolcraft Video Club on the film contest, "I can make a difference."

Feb. 11: Attended the first meeting of the Schoolcraft Peace Alliance to provide support and information

Jan. 28: Met with students from Schoolcraft College to provide support and guidance for the creation of the Schoolcraft Peace Alliance

Representatives attend monthly meetings of the DAPJN, Detroit Area Peace with Justice Network.

Peace Collection

Over 260 books make up the Peace Collection that is available for borrowing from the Livonia Public Library, Civic Center Branch. Funds were raised and donated for this project to purchase materials that inform, educate, and inspire efforts to promote a culture of peace. Materials for this collection were selected from a bibliography of over 500 titles on peace related issues, which is posted on www.citizensforpeace11.blogspot.com, and on The Peace Alliance website at www.thepeacealliance.org.

Restorative Practices

Restorative Practices is a method of discipline resulting in building a sense of community and reducing conflict and violence in schools. Several workshops were held, co-sponsored with Wayne RESA (Regional Educational Service Agency). The presenter and trainer was Bill Sower, School Transformation Specialist and founder of Safe Successful Schools, a consulting firm.

Nov. 12, 13: Conducted training on "Facilitating Conferencing." For teachers, principals, counselors, teacher aids, held at RESA office in Wayne.

Oct. 10 - 12: Presentation and "circle" training given at the Michigan Counseling Association annual conference in Dearborn

Aug. 7: Provided training at regular Wayne RESA Summer Institute for all teachers in 34 school districts.

Mar. 11: Offered "Facilitating Peace Circles" training at Wayne RESA office for educators.

Contact with Congressmen and Senators

We seek support from our elected officials to try to convince them to be co-sponsors of the Department of Peace legislation (H.R.808).

May 9: "Peace wants a Peace of the Pie:" delivered a pie and a packet of material to Senator Stabenow's Detroit office encouraging her to introduce the Department of Peace legislation in the Senate. At his Livonia office, gave Congressman McCotter the film "Beyond War" along with pie charts and other information about the Department of Peace legislation.

Feb. 13: Valentine greetings were delivered to Senator Stabenow's office in Livonia urging her to sponsor legislation in the Senate for the creation of a Cabinet Level Department of Peace.

Media Coverage

This is a way to reach thousands of people about our organization, our efforts to create a culture of peace, and our work to establish a cabinet level Department of Peace.

Sept. 14: Article in the Observer Eccentric about the fall film series at Madonna University.

Sept. 14: Letter to the Observer Eccentric Editor, "Unite for Peace"

Aug. 31: Article in the Observer Eccentric about the program One Peace, a celebration of the United Nations International Day of Peace with Gandhi Peace price winner, A.T. Ariyaratne from Sri Lanka and Michael Bernard Beckwith, founder of the Agape International Spiritual Center in California.

July 6: Article in the Detroit Free Press about the donated Peace Collection at the Livonia Civic Center Library.

Apr. 20: Article in the Observer Eccentric about the spring film series at Madonna University.

Mar. 30 and Apr. 3: Articles in Observer Eccentric about the showing of the film The Moses Code at Madonna University and a weekend world wide peace vigil.

Mar. 23: Article in the Observer Eccentric about the Charlie King performance at Unity of Livonia.

Jan. through Dec.: Notices in the Observer Eccentric in the Livonia Calendar and City Side sections advertising the monthly Citizen for Peace meetings at Unity of Livonia.