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Citizens for Peace Minutes 2-8-11

Linda J. Lieder

Wayne State University, linda.lieder@yahoo.com

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CITIZENS FOR PEACE
Minutes
February 8, 2011

Our meeting opened at 7:10 pm with a welcome by President, Colleen Mills. She introduced our new Inner Peace Director, Sally Peck, who led us in a meditation for peace and relaxation that ended with some stretches and hugging ourselves! It was a refreshing way to begin our meeting and focus on Peace.

Group Discussions:

Each table was given a set of questions pertaining to four Peacemakers, whose selections were included in the book, *Great Peacemakers*, by Ken Beller and Heather Chase. This wonderful book - winner of many awards, including the 2007 International Peace Writing Award, explores the wide range of approaches to peacemaking and can be used as a teaching aid for all ages. Peacemakers are highlighted in five categories: Choosing Nonviolence; Living Peace; Honoring Diversity; Valuing All Life and Caring for the Planet. Our focus this evening was on four who contributed to a culture of Peace in their time by Choosing Nonviolence:

- **Henry David Thoreau: Living Deliberately**
Question: Thoreau went into the woods because he wished to “live deliberately”.
What does living deliberately mean to you?
- **Mahatma Gandhi: Nonviolent Resistance**
Question: Gandhi said, “We must be the change we wish to see in this world”.
What change would you like to see in the world and how are you being that change?
- **Martin Luther King, Jr.: Daring to Dream**
Question: King dreamed that one day we would live in a nation where people “will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character”. In your opinion, how close is our society to realizing this dream?
- **Anderson Sa’: An Instrument of Change**
Question: Sa’ used his passion for music as an instrument for change. What is your passion, and how could you use it as an instrument of change?

Very thoughtful discussions ensued. Afterward, a spokesperson from each table shared the group reflections of the questions and how the various Peacemakers had impacted their lives. For more information on *Great Peacemakers* and extensive study guides (available for book clubs, faith-based groups, middle and high school classes and college and university classes), see the website – www.GreatPeacemakers.com.

Business Meeting / Announcements:

- Join us for the April 12th meeting – topic is Unmasking Youth Violence.
- The Nonviolent Film Festival starts on Wed April 6th and runs three consecutive Wednesdays. It will be held in the New Franciscan Center on the Madonna University Campus. Films start at 7:00 pm, Donation: \$5.00.
The three films featured are: “Pray the Devil Back to Hell”, “The Singing Revolution” and “Soldiers of Peace”.
- Check out the Citizens for Peace blog, as it’s filled with lots of useful peace-related info:
www.citizensforpeace11.blogspot.com.

With no further business to conduct, the meeting closed at 9:00 pm. Members were invited to enjoy refreshments.