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Citizens for Peace Minutes 4-10-12

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CITIZENS FOR PEACE
Minutes
April 10, 2012

Our meeting opened at 7:10 pm with a welcome by President, Colleen Mills. She introduced Inner Peace Director, Sally Peck, who led us in a breathing meditation and told us to let our troubles go!

Special Presentation:

Our Guest Speaker this evening was longtime Peace activist Rudy Simons who was here to discuss: War on Iran? – Three Perspectives. Rudy explained that he made two trips to Iran as part of an interfaith delegation, The Fellowship for Reconciliation. There's so much talk these days of a potential war with Iran and Rudy wanted to share his observations from a historical standpoint and from his trips among the Iranian people.

From an Israeli perspective:

- Peaceful Israeli citizens do not want a war. 60% believe there should be a mutual lid on nuclear weapons.
- During the years of the Shah, Israel and Iran were friends. Not now.
- Israel has aerial views of Iranian weapons development and will use weapons against Iran if need be.
- Israel counts on the U.S. to support them.

From an Iranian perspective:

- The Iranians Rudy encountered had a great respect for the U.S. people.
- Iranians feel if the Israeli's have weapons, why can't they?
- The U.S. was involved in setting up a nuclear facility in Iran in the 1950s.
- The U.S. provided many of the weapons to Iraq for their invasion of Iran, the 8 year War.
- Although women were repressed for many years in Iran, today, 60% of the University population is women.

From a U.S. perspective:

- The U.S. has joined Israel, saying that Iran must not have nuclear weapons.
- The U.S. will back up Israel, but not as strongly as entering into war.
- Only 14% of Muslims are in Iran. (Most are in Indonesia, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh.)
- The U.S. feels bombing Iran would be catastrophic- we would be destroying a country that goes back 4,800 years!
- Diplomacy has the promise of creating survival.

Rudy concluded his discussion and a Q&A session followed. He was thanked by all. And, thanks to Kevin Szawala, Rudy's presentation was taped for the first time! Rudy deferred to Kim Bergier, who brought two petitions, Against a War with Iran, for members and guests to sign. It was also suggested that everyone send a letter to their Congressional Rep., stating their position on a potential for war. A copy of the "Patriot News" with the headline "No Iran War" was available for all and summed up the discussion:

"We have wasted about 5 Trillion dollars, about 6,000 young soldiers and our moral standing in the world, all because of misguided wars of aggression in Afghanistan and Iraq. Let's not make the same mistake again in Iran! Iran has never attacked the United States, and is no threat to attack us. True, if we let Iran get Nuclear weapons, we may have to get out of Afghanistan and Iraq and abandon our empire in the Middle East. So be it.....Israel can protect themselves. Better yet, let them negotiate a non-aggression pact with Iran."

Business Meeting:

- The Westland Library has agreed to accept \$500 worth of books from our Peace Collection!
- Rosemary Doyle mentioned that there have been over 2500 downloads of our Peace Bibliography!
- Colleen showed the group Peace Placards (\$10 ea) to support Brother Al's Detroit Soup Kitchen.
- Join us on Memorial Day at the Arlington Michigan display, between 9 am – 6 pm.

Colleen thanked all in attendance for joining us, and looked forward to seeing our members at the many upcoming events listed on the agenda. With no further business to conduct, the meeting closed at 9:05 pm.

The Optimist's Creed

Promise Yourself ...

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.
To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.
To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.
To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.
To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best.
To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.
To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.
To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.
To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.
To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

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