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Citizens for Peace Activities and Accomplishments 2003 - 2007

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Citizens for Peace Activities and Accomplishments

On October 3, 2003 Linda Henderson, State Coordinator for the Department of Peace Campaign, held a one day conference in Southfield. The group was divided into congressional districts and the people from the 11th district decided to start building an organization. The first meeting was November 11, 2003.

At the January 13, 2004 membership meeting, the organization's Development Consultant volunteered to lead the group through a structured discussion to develop vision and mission statements, goals and tasks accordingly.

In January 2006 a committee was formed to develop bylaws, and to start the process for Citizens for Peace to become a legal entity. Once the bylaws were written and approved the necessary forms for incorporation, charitable trust status by the State of Michigan, and the IRS applications for 501c3 and 501c4 status were filed.

The following describes our activities and accomplishments:

1. 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. We watch films and listen to guest speakers, and discuss issues dealing with social justice. Members also share inspirational material and have discussions on a variety of topics to educate ourselves and others on inner and world peace. The Directors are also given the opportunity to report on the status of various projects and events.

The following is an example of some of our programs:

9/11/07: "Remembering 9/11 and Transforming Ourselves From Fear to Love". Members shared inspirational readings that included messages of forgiveness, cooperation, and gratefulness.

8/8/07: Documentary, "George Zabelka, The Reluctant Prophet," story of a priest's transformation from a hawk to a peace activist. Discussion followed.

7/10/07: DVD of James O'Day's presentation "The Science of Peace" at the Department of Peace Campaign Conference in Washington D.C. February 2007. Discussion followed

5/8/07: Kim Korona led a “Sowing Seeds” workshop from the Institute for Humane Education; she demonstrated how our everyday choices have an impact on creating a more humane world.

4/10/07: Robert Weir spoke about his experience at “Peace Jam” where 10 Nobel Peace Prize Laureates spoke to 5,000 students from all over the world.

2. “Tabling”

A “tabling” activity is setting up a table at an event and passing out information and talking with people about the Department of Peace legislation. Being at these events, gives us the opportunity to explain the concept of peace-making at the federal level of government.

9/20/07: 10 am – 4 pm: Schoolcraft College School DAZE nonprofit day.

9/29/07: 10 am – 7 pm: Body, Mind, Spirit Festival at Macomb Community College

9/23/07: Unity of Livonia before the presentation by Will Tuttle who spoke about the World Peace Diet

4/17/07: 7 - 9 pm: Michigan premier of the film, “Out of Balance” at Madonna University in Livonia

3/31/07: 7 – 9 pm: “Like water Drum” at Unity Church in Livonia

3/17/07: 11 am – 5 pm: Holistic Festival at the Italian American Banquet Center in Livonia

3/4/07: 10 am – 1 pm: Detroit’s Central United Methodist Church, before the program honoring women during Women’s History Month

1/23/07: 6 – 9:30 pm: Eastern Michigan University, before the program, “An Evening with Farmer Harold Brown.” His presentation informed people about the cruelty committed to animals that are slaughtered for food.

11/06: 10 am – 7 pm: Body, Mind, and Spirit Festival at Macomb County Community College in Warren

10/10/06: 6 pm – 11 pm: Sports arena in Auburn Hills before the concert by the Red Hot Chili Peppers, a rock group that supports the Department of Peace Campaign

9/9/06: 7 – 9 pm: St. Edith Church group gave presentation about history of and status of current legislation for a Department of Peace; followed by Q & A session with Congressman Thaddeus McCotter

8/12/06: 9 am – 3 pm: Michigan Network Conference in Ann Arbor

4/22/06: All day: Pax Christi conference, “The Road Ahead: Hope for a Future of Peace”

4/06: 10 am – 7 pm: Body, Mind, and Spirit Festival at Macomb County Community College in Warren

4/8/06: 9 am – noon: Unity Church of Livonia during “An Interfaith Values Forum” chaired by the “Interfaith Partners for Political Action”

4/2/06: 11 am – 5 pm: Holistic Health Expo at the Italian American Banquet Center, Livonia

3/18/06: 10 am – noon: “March for Peace” in downtown Northville

2/14/06: 7 – 9 pm: “I Love Livonia” celebration at the Livonia Civic Center Library

1/7/06: 10 am – 12 noon: Iraq Forum at the Livonia Senior Center

1/06: Fundraiser for Results, a Citizen’s lobby group who works to end world hunger; motto: “Peace begins when hunger ends.”

11/12/05: 10 am – 5 pm: Holistic Expo at the St. John’s Conference Center in Livonia

8/05: 8 am – 2 pm. “Yoga for Peace,” at Ford Field in Dearborn

8/20/05: 10 am – 5 pm: Holistic Expo at the Italian American Center in Livonia

7/13 – 7/16/05: 10 am – 10 pm. Novi 50’s Festival

10/30 – 11/31: Shriners’ Auditorium in Southfield; author and founder of the Peace Alliance, Marianne Williamson gave her “Miracles Now” seminar.

7/28 – 7/30/04. 10 am – 10 pm: Novi 50’s Festival

1/8/04: 7 – 9 pm: Livonia Recreation Center; before the movie, “Uncovered”

3. Speaking Engagements

Speaking engagements allow us to educate diverse audiences about the Department of Peace legislation, and to gain support for the passage of this legislation. It also gives us opportunities to share with others who are working for the same legislation.

6/19/07: First meeting of the Peace Speakers Committee

8/12/06: 1 – 3 pm: Presentation given at the Michigan Peace Network Conference in Lansing.

4/4/06: 1 – 3 pm: Presentation given at the Interfaith Ministers Luncheon in Grosse Pointe.

7/22/06: Presentations at the regional Department of Peace Campaign conference in Kalamazoo: (1) an overview of how Citizens for Peace was organized and the activities the organization sponsored; (2) introduction to Marshall Rosenberg's Nonviolent Communication (NVC)

7/24/06: Report about the First World Peace Forum held in Vancouver, British Columbia June 23-28, 2006. Members and supporters of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WIPF) made up the audience in Southfield.

4/7/06: 7 – 8:30 pm: Presentation given at the Point of Light Church in Royal Oak to the congregation.

6/5/05: 9 – 10 am: A panel of four Citizens for Peace members gave an overview of the organization and activities at the Michigan Department of Peace Conference in Ann Arbor

4/5/05: 7 – 9 pm. Presentation given to the Douglas Democratic Club in the town of Douglas, Michigan

4. Peace Collection

Over \$3,000 was raised for the development of a peace collection at the Livonia Civic Center Public Library. (See link to the bibliography)

5/30/07: Fundraiser at Max and Erma's restaurant

3/30/07: Dinner for Peace

12/12/06: Silent Auction

5. Using Restorative Practices to Build Healthy Productive Classrooms

11/8/07: Seminar for teachers and administrators on changing the culture of schools to create a healthy community for learning. Based on the principles of restorative justice, this program seeks to actively involve all those impacted by wrongdoing --- victims, offenders, both their families and friends – in addressing the consequences of an act and deciding how to repair the harm resulting from the offense.

6. 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 are knowledgeable and dedicated to using their influence to help change policies of our federal government.

9/23/07: “Arlington West Memorial – The Human Cost of War” at Grand Circus Park. This is a traveling exhibit of a cemetery, honoring those who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001. Citizens for Peace members were the hosts for the day, explaining the exhibit to the public and talking about peace. It was sponsored by DAPJN – Detroit Area Peace with Justice Network.

8/9/07: Nagasaki Day of Remembrance at Our Lady of Fatima Church hall. Co-sponsors were Citizens for Peace and Detroit Area Peace with Justice Network (DAPJN)

8/9/06: Nagasaki Day of Remembrance at Hope United Methodist Church in Southfield. Co-sponsors were Citizens for Peace and Detroit Area Peace with Justice Network (DAPJN).

9/21/05: Presented documentary film, “Peace One Day” at Madonna University in Livonia in honor of the International Day of Peace. Citizens for Peace worked with the Student Activities and Wellness Director, Edna Rankin.

8/9/05: 7 – 9 pm: Nagasaki Day of Remembrance at Unity Church of Livonia. Co-sponsors included Peace Action of Michigan, Swords into Plowshares Peace Center, and Citizens for Peace.

4/16-21/05: 7th Annual Global Nonviolence Conference sponsored by the Michigan Institute for Non-violent Education (MINE). Members of Citizens for Peace gave a workshop on “Nonviolence in Politics: Department of Peace.”

1/17/05: People of Livonia Address Issues of Diversity (PLAID) and Citizens for Peace co-sponsored a Martin Luther King program. Citizens for Peace planned and implemented the Peace Poster Contest for school age children. Program was held at Churchill High School in Livonia.

7. Human Rights Film Festivals

This film series is co-sponsored with Michigan Coalition for Human Rights (MCHR) and Madonna University in Livonia. This is another venue where our

organization can promote the concept of a cabinet level Department of Peace, and engage people to think about peace, justice and care of the earth and how it is all interrelated. After each movie, there is a person with expertise in the subject of the movie to answer questions.

Fall 2007:

10/5: Why we Fight
10/12: Who Shot my Brother?
10/19: China Blue
10/26: Independent Interventions

Spring 2007:

4/27: Iraq in Fragments
5/4: Thirst
5/11: Black Gold
5/18: America's Brutal Prisons
5/25: The Fence

Fall 2006:

9/22: The Ground Truth
9/29: When the Levees Broke
10/13: Abandoned
10/27: Iraq for Sale

Spring 2006:

4/26: Another African Story
5/3: Rich Media Poor Democracy
5/10: Enron, the Smartest Guys in the Room
5/17: Might Times: The Legacy of Rosa Parks

Fall 2005

11/2: Oil Factor: Behind the War on Terror
11/9: Forsaken Cries (about genocide in Darfur region of Sudan)
11/16: Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price
11/30: Slavery: A Global Investigation

8. Letters to the Editor and Editorials

Writing letters to the editor and editorials furthers our purpose by giving us a way to explain our cause, reaching thousands of people in the Detroit, Michigan metropolitan area. The purpose of these letters and editorials is to make people aware of our organization and to explain the need for a cabinet level Department of Peace.

There are fifteen Observer Eccentric newspapers in as many suburbs in southeastern Michigan. The editorials were published in all fifteen Sunday papers. The letters to the editor were published in Redford, Livonia and Westland papers.

Editorials: "Vietnam War Memorial Should be our Nation's Last Such Monument" published 2/24/05; "Some people get it, some don't but a Dept. of Peace is Needed" published 6/3/04; Citizens ban together to support a Department of Peace Concept" published 1/8/04.

Letters to the Editor: "Vote for Peace" 10\29\06; "The Quest for Peace" 9\17\06; "We Have Become the Enemy" 3/9/06; "Courage to Make a Difference" 3/24/05; "We Deserve Peace Department" 3/10/05; "Peace is Idealistic" 10/07/04; "Time for Peace Department" 9/16/04; "Lead World to Peace" 9/2/04; "Dept. of Peace – a New Tool" and "Change Culture, Support Peace" 6/1/04.

9. Meetings with Congressmen, U.S. Senators and Their Staffs

The sole purpose for meeting with public officials is to convince them to be co-sponsors of the Department of Peace legislation (H.R. 808) that was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives, February 5, 2007.

5/11/07: "Peace wants a Piece of the Pie." This is the second time a pie was taken to Congressman McCotter's Livonia office near Mother's Day to bring to their attention that the Cabinet Level Department of Peace would cost a "piece of the pie" equivalent to 2% of the Defense Budget.

2/5/07: Meeting with Congressman McCotter's aid Paul Blocher in Washington, D.C.

2/5/07: Meeting with Senators Levin's and Stabenow's aides in Washington, D.C.

5/12/06: "Peace wants a Piece of the Pie." Members delivered a pie to Congressman McCotter's Livonia office.

9/12/05: Meeting with Senators Levin and Stabenow, and Congressman McCotter's aid Alex Manning in Washington D.C.

9/14/04: Meeting with U.S. senator, Carl Levin.

5/17/04, 6/7/04: Members attended Congressman McCotter's coffee hours in Dearborn and Redford.

12/16/03: Meeting with Congressman McCotter of the Michigan 11th congressional district.

10. Letters to Congressmen and Senators

Members write letters send postcards and e-mails to our elected officials with the goal of convincing our senators and representatives to be co-sponsors of the legislation creating a cabinet level Department of Peace. They also write about their concerns dealing with nuclear proliferation, social justice, and domestic violence.

11. Workshops on Nonviolent Communication (NVC)

“Communication --- the Human Connection; a Guide to Authentic, Peace Building Relationships”

These workshops help people develop peaceful relationships personally and professionally. Marshall Rosenberg, PhD Psychologist, has trained thousands of people all over the world in his method of communication. These local workshops, given by a Citizens for Peace member, are open to the public. Most of the workshops are held at the Unity Church in Livonia.

Purpose: To learn the four step human connection communication process
To identify life-alienating language that blocks this process
To identify and express feelings and needs
To learn how to give and receive empathy
To manage anger with opposing points of view

2007:

12/8: 9 a.m. – 3:30 pm: workshop
11/07: 6:30 – 9:30 pm: workshop for students at Oakland University philosophy class, “Responses to Evil”
4/21: 9 am – 3:30 pm: workshop

2006

12/02: 9 am – 3:30 pm: workshop

7/16: 9 am – 1 pm: workshop
7/15: 9 am – 4 pm: workshop
1/14: 9 am -3:30 pm: workshop

2005:

7/21: NVC Practice Group: 7 – 9 pm
6/16: NVC Practice Group: 7 – 9 pm
5/19: NVC Practice Group: 7 – 9 pm
1/26: 7 pm – 9 pm: workshop
1/14: 9 am – 3:30 pm: workshop
1/5: 7 pm – 9 pm: workshop

2004:

10/27: 7 pm – 9 pm; workshop
10/16: 9 am – 3:30 pm; workshop
10/6: 7 pm – 9 pm; workshop

6/19: 9 am – 3:30 pm: workshop

12. Inner Peace Retreats

Inner peace retreats are offered to members and nonmembers. We believe that peace is achieved when individuals are at peace with themselves, their families and their world.

7/27-29/07: “Present Moment” summer retreat in Vanderbilt, Michigan

5/20/06: 1-4 pm: Spring retreat at Unity Church of Livonia

5/20 – 5/21/05: Spring retreat at the Bahai Resort in Davison

“Intention: Come to be restored. Leave inspired and empowered. Connect with ourselves as individuals and each other as community. Be open to spiritual direction on the path to world peace.”

9\25\04: 9 am – 4 pm: “Principles of a New Activism”

Lessons in (1) Stillness as an act of power; (2) Interpersonal healing as an act of power; (3) Creating sacred space as an act of power. This retreat was held at Madonna University.

13. Department of Peace Fundraisers

Citizens for Peace is affiliated with the State of Michigan Department of Peace Campaign and the national, The Peace Alliance.

9/22/07: Walk for Peace a four mile walk down Woodward Avenue from Ferndale to Palmer Park in Detroit raised money for The Peace Alliance

9/15/07: Film Festival raised money for The Peace Alliance.

Movies: Living Luminaries, The Secret, Humanity Ascending, Howard Zinn: You Can't be Neutral on a Moving Train, Critical Mass, Peace, Highlights from the Department of Peace Conference, February 2007.

14. Publications

Political Action Guide

This citizens guide includes information on the Department of Peace Campaign, how to locate federal and state elected officials, how you can make a difference, tips on participating in the legislative process, listings of social justice organizations, and U.S. and Michigan district maps. This

publication is updated every two years to include the newly elected public officials.

Informational Brochure about Citizens for Peace

This brochure was first published in December, 2005. It describes our Organization, our mission, goals, and our accomplishments.

15. Electronic Media

4/19/07: Wayne State University gave the organization space on their Digital Commons, their Peace and Justice Digital Resource Center. This is a place where nonprofit organizations working for peace can post their archival documents: http://digitalcommons.wayne.edu/cpcs_cfp/

10/31/05: Citizens for Peace became a presence on the Internet at www.citizensforpeace11.blogspot.com.

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