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## Citizens for Peace Minutes 1-11-11

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## CITIZENS FOR PEACE

### Minutes

January 11, 2011

Our meeting opened at 7:10 pm with a welcome by President, Colleen Mills, who thanked all in attendance for weathering the storm to be together this evening. She introduced member, Lynda Herman, who asked us all to take a moment and focus on healing. She then shared her thoughts on New Year's resolutions and how many don't last. Rather, she said, set some intentions. Follow your passion in your soul and set the intention for the year. She then led us in a meditation focused on setting an intention for Peace. After, she gave us a handout to help us identify our passions in life.

#### **Special Presentation:**

Colleen shared a video from the Bioneer's Conference that member, Carol Kersten, attended the conference last year. The keynote speaker was Malika Dutt, the President of Breakthrough, an international human rights organization working to transform public attitudes and advance equality. They do this by using cutting edge media tools to engage others in areas of Domestic Violence, HIV/AIDS, Racial Justice and Immigrant Rights, around the world.

One such program is Ring the Bell, a simple yet profound approach to interrupting and hopefully stopping domestic violence. The movement is taking off in India and the U.S. It is startling to know that one in three women in the world is a victim of violence. The Ring the Bell concept calls on men and boys, especially, to not ignore violence against women.

For instance, if a case of violence is heard in a home, simply ring the doorbell and ask a simple question, such as May I use your phone? This simple act interrupts the incident, possibly allowing enough time for the woman to escape. The message in this is simple. Everyone is responsible for stopping domestic violence and promoting equality between men and women. We must challenge values that uphold violence, and ultimately break the cycle.

The Ring the Bell program is going global. The Secretary General of the United Nations has joined the effort. Human rights begin in small places – the home, the workplace, the community. As Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "Human rights begin with you."

#### **Business Meeting:**

2011 Elections – Members reviewed the nominations for the 2011 Board. A motion was made and 2nded to elect the officers nominated and unanimously passed. Congratulations to the following:

- President – Colleen Mills
- Vice President – Tada Gunter
- Secretary – Linda Lieder
- Treasurer – Rick Abdo

Directors:            Inner Peace – Sally Peck  
                          Education – Rosemary Doyle  
                          Technology – Bob Frank  
                          PR & Fundraising – George Mills  
                          Membership – Dottie Ochala  
                          Citizen Action – Gloria Gonek

Members At Large -    Ann Abdo  
                                  Cathy Beal  
                                  Maureen Ladasz

Colleen thanked Caroline Trout and Pat Van Vuren for their service on the Board. It was greatly appreciated!

Treasurer, Rick Abdo, submitted the current report and it was read by Colleen.

#### **Announcements:**

- Moveable Peace planning meeting on Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> in Lansing.
- MLK event at Central United Church, 12:00 pm.
- Rosemary D. spoke about the Restorative Practices training tomorrow.

With no further business to conduct, the meeting closed at 8:30 pm. Members were invited to enjoy refreshments.