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Citizens for Peace

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10-1-2007

## Citizens For Peace Minutes 09-11-07

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### Recommended Citation

Lieder, Linda J., "Citizens For Peace Minutes 09-11-07" (2007). *Citizens for Peace*. Paper 9.  
[http://digitalcommons.wayne.edu/cpcs\\_cfp/9](http://digitalcommons.wayne.edu/cpcs_cfp/9)

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CITIZENS FOR PEACE  
Minutes  
September 11, 2007

The meeting opened at 7:00 pm with a welcome by Colleen Mills to all in attendance.

**Announcements:**

- Colleen was pleased to announce that Dottie Ochala will be taking over the position of Organizational Director, which was held since the group was formed by Vincenza Mueller. Many thanks to Vincenza for her efforts and thank you to Dottie for accepting this position.
- Also, Education Director, Rosemary Doyle, will be joining the Board of the CFP Education Fund, replacing Mary Albertson.
- Rosemary gave us an update on the status of the Peace Collection project. It is now in phase II, which means we will be informing schools that the Peace Collection exists.
- Also, Rosemary commented on our November 8<sup>th</sup>, High Tea and Presentation for teachers in our area. The presentation is on Restorative Practices, which is used in schools in an effort to bring together victims and students involved in acts of violence. It is modeled after Restorative Justice programs and is designed for the most difficult students.
- Colleen was very pleased to announce that member, and former vet, Deborah Brown's son Paul's third tour of duty to Iraq, was rescinded. Deborah wrote a song, "Land of the Free" and she has donated CD's for us to sell. And a big thank you goes out to Deborah who donated \$100 to the Peace Alliance.
- We have new, Michigan DoP, T-shirts and Peace Alliance tote bags for sale. Colleen asked that participants of the upcoming Film Festival and Walk for Peace please wear their T-shirts.
- Lynda Herman reported that the Yoga Association of Detroit is donating \$50 to the Walk for Peace.
- Colleen invited all to join us for the Film Festival this Saturday, Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>, at Madonna University. We have wonderful array of films to be shown that day.
- Please join us for the four mile, Walk for Peace, on Saturday Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>, starting in Ferndale and ending in Palmer Park.
- Although we're still waiting for approval, the Arlington Midwest Memorial display – The Human Cost of War, is scheduled for the weekend of Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, at Grand Circus Park in Detroit. Our day to volunteer is Sunday, the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please join us as it will be a very moving display.
- There will be a time of Peaceful Reflection, on Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>, from 12:00 – 1:00 pm, at Unity of Livonia. Thank you to Rev. Dennis Skiles for providing this time.
- We will be tabling at the "School Daze" event on Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> at Schoolcraft College. We hope to meet many students and spread the word about the Student DoP Organization.
- September 21<sup>st</sup> is the International Day of Peace, sanctioned by the United Nations. It is a day of cease-fire and peaceful assembling around the world.

Inner Peace Director, Caroline Trout, shared a CD with the group called "Be the Change" by James Twyman. The theme for this evening, as today is the anniversary of 9/11, is to be transformed from fear to love. The CD was provided by member, Cathy Beal, and expresses it is our choice to "be the change we want to see in this world" (Gandhi), and thus, change our world.

**Special Presentation:**

Remembering 9/11 and transforming ourselves from fear to love. Members shared inspirational readings that included messages of Forgiveness, Cooperation and Gratefulness.

Also included in the inspirational readings were quotes from Daisaku Ikeda, Dag Hammarskjold, Mother Theresa, Kabir Helminski, Satguru Sivaya Subramuniyaswami, the Prayer of St. Francis and an Interfaith Statement delivered to every Congressional Office and to the White House on Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>, 2001:

*“Our American illusion of invulnerability has been shattered. From now on, we will look at the world in a different way, and this attack on our life as a nation will become a test of our national character. Let us make the right choices in this crisis – to pray, act, and unite against bitter fruits of division, hatred and violence. Let us rededicate ourselves to global peace, human dignity, and the eradication of injustice that breeds rage and vengeance.”*

Also, a quote by Rabbi Arthur Waskow, seemed to sum it up well:

***“Instead of entering upon a war of civilizations, we must pursue a planetary peace.”***

Colleen stated that many of the quotes were taken from a book titled, “From the Ashes: A Spiritual Response to the Attack on America”, which is available on Amazon.com. Many used copies are only one cent – you just pay the shipping.

Colleen thanked all for coming this evening. With no further business, the meeting closed at 8:35 pm.