

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA COALITION FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
January 24, 2007

PRESENT: CoCP Gamson, CP Fippinger, DVPJ Roach, EPIC Schmitz, FCC/UCC Upshall, FCPJ Murphy, GPAX Aires, MUUF/SAC Sweeting, PCF CA Breyer, L.Breyer, RTI Slettehaugh, SBPJ Thacker, SMM Fitzpatrick, SoC Whipple, UUSara/SC Safran, Graetz, UUFCC Karen Bennett, VPC Rogers GUEST Jack Gilhooley
REGRETS Spaulding, Frace, Charry, Phillips, Thompson

The meeting was opened by Augie Schmitz. with 19 present representing 16 organizations. Following introductions, the Dec. 13 minutes were approved. **Treasurer** Lee Breyer reported a balance of \$3,379.90 . A full report will follow.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee. Sharon Fitzpatrick reported that a fund raising letter will be sent to all members and prospective members

Membership Committee Ruth Upshall reported that *there will be only two categories of membership: Coalition and Individual. The category "Liaison" will be dropped. Any group which finds payment of dues to be a hardship may apply to the Finance Committee, in writing, for a waiver or adjustment.* The recommendation was **approved.**

.World Day of Peace Carol Ann Breyer reported that the day had excellent media coverage but was a financial loss. Doug summarized the evaluations. A meeting was called for January 31 at 9:30 at the UU Church to determine the purpose of the WDP and how to make it financially successful.

Vigils Babs Whipple and Julia Aires reported on the **January 27** National Mandate for Peace March Appreciation was expressed to the Scheiners for the \$1,250 newspaper ad and to the Phillips and leaders of Grandparents for Peace for their support. Schedule:

10:00 Gather at Bayfront

10:45 Code Pink will lead out the March, Those who are able will follow down Main Street to Farmers Market

11:30 Proceed to Herald Tribune

12:00 Finale at Links Park followed by informal march back to Bayfront

There will be songs, antics, costumes and short statements with bullhorn, no speeches. Participants are asked to be Peacekeepers, prevent litter of fliers, stay on sidewalk and walk together. Fliers, buttons and signs are available from Babs for a donation. Carry American flags and banners from your individual group

Julia announced plans for a respectful and inspirational observance of the Fourth Anniversary of the War in Iraq on **March 17.** . The event will begin at 1:00 P.M. at Island Park with drumming. At 2:00 there will be speakers (Aidan Delgado and Fred Atkins) with music by Mindy Simons. There will be no signs or demonstrations. Planners should remember that this is also St. Patrick's Day. Carol Ann called attention

to the decision of Pax Christi to use March 17 as an opportunity to set forth a political position of peace and justice. The Coalition **voted** to sign on to the goals as outlined by Pax Christi. See www.paxchristiusa.org

It was suggested that SWFCPJ plan a special vigil to recognize Earth Day on **April 14**.

Sharon announced that members of SMM Group have decided to return to holding **silent vigils** on Friday afternoons, and will meet at Lockwood Ridge and 54th St.

Peace Education Arlene Sweeting reported the Committee will be:

- 1) Introducing Nonviolent Curriculum into the Schools
 - a. We recommend that the SWFCPJ endorse Sharon Fitzpatrick's School Gardens program and publicize the need for volunteers to their membership. This program teaches children about ecology, the origins of food, and respect for living systems. It was **voted** to endorse the Gardens Program.
 - b. We continue to pursue funding to train Sarasota teachers to use the Peace by Piece K-5 curriculum adopted by the Sarasota County School System.
 - c. Working on event with Colman McCarthy in Fall
 - d. Looking into possibility of establishing a Nonviolence tutorial for New College Students
- 2) Coordinating Season of Nonviolence Events
- 3) Establishing a Center for Peace Education in Sarasota
 - a. Ask the FCPJ to be a fiscal sponsor for the group
 - b. Establish a 501 (c) (3) to accept grant funds
 - c. Develop a website
 - d. Explore the possibility of using space at the Friends Meetinghouse

It was clarified by Carol Ann that by declaring itself a 501 (3) (c) group, the Peace Education Committee will become a member organization of the Coalition rather than a Coalition Standing Committee. Next meeting of the Committee will be February 6 at Sharon's at 5:00 P.M.

Peace Alliance Glenn Rogers reported that he and Ed Helms will be attending the conference in Washington, D.C. on February 3-5. He urged members to write letters demanding the creation of a Dept of Peace and Nonviolence. He will hand deliver the letters to the legislators in the capitol. The Coalition **voted** to endorse the creation of a Dept. of Peace and Nonviolence.

Publicity Mary Lee Slettehaugh volunteered to prepare a brochure on the scope and goals of SWFCPJ

GROUP REPORTS

Venice Peace Coalition Glenn reported that 50 persons attended a showing of the film Nobility on January 20.

Coalition of Concerned Patriots Mary Edda Gamson reported on a successful MLK event on Jan. 15.

SNCC Carol Ann reminded members of the Feb. 9-11 meetings with Dr. Marshall Rosenberg.

RTI Mary Lee reported that 1. the group is seeking funding for establishment of a center for religious tolerance 2. Feb. 22 & 23 at 7:30 at New College there will be Jewish-Muslim dialogues.

MUUF/SAC Arlene reported the group is starting an 8 week study circle on nonviolence. They are using materials from Arizona Peace Center. Also, the group will dedicate a Peace Pole.

CP Faith Fippinger reported that Code Pink is helping sponsor the 8th Annual Women's International Film Festival Feb 23 & 24. They will be meeting at 6:30 on Feb. 7 at the Metro. She also requested support for Sister Sheila and others who crossed the line at SOA/WHINSEC and face trial and imprisonment.

FCC/UCC Ruth reported a record attendance Jan. 21, at Faith's talk about her trip to Iran.

SMM Sharon announced that Faith would be speaking Jan 26 to her group. Also, she reminded folks to attend the Quaker Market on March 31.

UUSaraSC Bob Graetz distributed a position paper on Global Warming by the UU General Assembly. He announced the series of lectures on science and Religion starting on Sunday January 28 at First Congregational Church, Euclid Ave at 7:00 P.M. and following. Other dates are available from Bob at 377-4633.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fogartyville Café and WSLR Arlene distributed Newsletters with information about the station and upcoming events at the Café.

Food Not Bombs Babs reported for the organization that it is feeding the homeless, educating the public about issues and involving students in meeting the needs of the homeless.

The Warrior, a documentary play by Jack Gilhooley dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder of a veteran of the Iraq War. Feb 15-17 and 22-24 at 8:00 P.M. and Sunday 4:00 P.M. matinee Feb. 18 and 25 at The Backlot, 2208 Industrial Blvd, Sarasota. Tel 363-9300.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT Doug Roach presented the following slate: Chair Augie Schmitz, Vice Chair Sharon Fitzpatrick, Treasurer Lee Breyer, Secretary Ruth Upshall, At Large Carol Ann Breyer and Doug Roach, Nominating Julia Aires, Glenn Rogers, Verna Safran and Mary Lee Slettehaugh. Babs Whipple was nominated from the floor and added to the slate as an At Large Member of the Executive Committee. **The entire slate was adopted unanimously.**

NEXT MEETINGS

January 28, 2007 9:30 the Executive Committee and World Peace Day Planning Group
February 28, 2007 9:30 Regular Meeting, UU Church, 3975 Fruitville Rd*

*Please have all reports and announcements in writing for the secretary. ☺