

**Broome County Peace Action  
Minutes of Meeting, Aug 11, 2009  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
Binghamton, New York**

**1 Welcome, Agenda Review, and Revisions**

1.1 **Present:** Board Members -- Michelle Dingler, Dave Duncan, George Haeseler Doris Reed, Sue McAnanama, Joyce Donahue, Bill Donahue, Heda Libby, Jack Gilroy, Jane DeHawkhurst, Jack Sexton, Tarik Abdelazim, Anne Clune, Jim Clune, Len Bjorkman.

General Member – George Homanich

1.2 Tarik opened the meeting at 7:05 and presented the agenda, which was approved.

**2 Approve Minutes from July meeting**

2.1 The minutes were approved as e-mailed.

**3 Treasurer's Report was presented.** Balances: BCNWRC - \$819.58, War Tax Resistance: \$200, STPMF - \$7,871.24, BCPA - \$3,300.08

**4 Committee reports**

4.1 **Letters to the Editor** (Sue): There have been 3 or 4 good letters, mainly about the budget.

**4.2 Membership**

4.2.1 Sue reported that not all have renewed their memberships, and George added that a reminder will be sent in Sept., with the final one in Dec.

4.2.2 PANYS has a membership recruitment packet, which Sue circulated.

4.2.3 Nationally, PA has a membership of 100,000.

4.3 **Update Newsletter.** The next newsletter will be sent around Sept. 12. Featured will be the visits of Roy Bourgeois on Wed., Sept. 23, and Chris Hedges on Sat., Oct. 24. Articles should be sent to Alan immediately.

**4.4 Southern Tier Peacemakers Fund**

4.4.1 Michelle presented many details about the location at Peace Park of a monument, a plaque, a bench, etc. For instance, a granite monument could cost as much as \$5000. Since this will be near the Skirmishers Monument, the thought was not to “fight fire with fire,” but to present something that would evoke a sense of peacefulness. It was generally agreed that the committee should find a way to have the names displayed, perhaps on bricks. A bench could cost \$1500 – 1750. Perhaps it would be well to plant a tree that would be surrounded by bricks, which would also include a statement of the purpose of the memorial. Jack G. pointed out that “Peace Park” is a reminder that George Washington encamped there before his campaign against the Native Americans. The River Trails Commission will have the final say on what happens; so negotiations will continue with them.

4.4.2 Articles from those who have received help from the fund are needed for Update. George Homanich will remind Judy of this request.

4.5 **Broome County War Tax Resistance Fund.** George has submitted a guest viewpoint to the Binghamton Press on war tax resistance and the fund.

4.6 **Ad hoc Committee on Israel-Palestine.** Jim Clune said that the committee plans to meet soon, hopefully on Aug. 20.

**5 Old Business**

5.1 **Hiroshima Day Breakfast:** Jack reported on the enthusiastic, informative program on Aug. 6 at the Congregational Church and the Park. Special thanks to singer Madison Terboss and speaker Helena Garan.

5.1.2 In regards to the finances, at the July Peace Action meeting, \$150 was requested and granted by voice vote for expenses for the Hiroshima event. Costs increased with the request to have the event video taped for future presentation on public service TV.

5.1.3 **MSP** to approve an additional \$125 for event costs. (\$150 was approved at the July meeting., making the total Peace Action commitment to the annual event of \$275.) The breakdown is: Tom Gannon, video maker, \$100.00; Madison Terboss, singer, \$100.00; Bonnie Mando, food purchase, \$75.00.

5.1.4 It was also agreed that the free will offering of \$303.00 will be donated to First Congregational Church for the use of their facility. (Jack will work out any details of the distribution.)

5.1.5 Helena donated her services.

5.2 **Resolution on UN Reform:** The National office has it now; they have representatives who relate to the UN. But we are discouraged about their doing anything. Nevertheless George will follow up.

5.3 **Costs of militarism Campaign:** Tarik is working on this.

## 6 New Business

6.1 **Sustainability Week**, Oct. 18-24. Tarik reported that many community and campus events will take place that week, combining the activities of the Binghamton Regional Sustainability Coalition and other groups, and coordinating with the international movement 350.org. Everyone is encouraged to look at their website for information about the International Day of Climate Action on Oct. 24.

6.2 **Address by Chris Hedges**. He has agreed to be the speaker on Oct. 24. We plan to have his talk be the culminating activity of the week. He was already committed to speak at the annual award dinner of CNY Peace Action in Syracuse on Oct. 25, and has agreed to be with us on Oct. 24. The details will be worked out in the next couple of weeks, in time for Update.

6.2.1 **MSP** to approve up to \$750 to cover costs, which will hopefully be shared with CNY PA.

6.3 **BU Service and Volunteer Activities** will be held on campus on Oct. 30. We will table there.

6.4 **Tabling**.

6.4.1 Sue presented options for materials for tabling. Several suggestions were made and she will follow up on them, and get a variety of buttons, etc.

6.4.2 We will be tabling on Sept. 11 at the CommuniversityFest in downtown Binghamton.

## 7 Announcements

7.1 **Mayor's Election Campaign**. George relayed that he had asked for but not received from Tarik, the total number of people who had contributed to the e-mail solicitation George had made. Tarik responded that this was not a board item and he would discuss the matter with George after the meeting.

7.2 **Kathy Kelly** will give a public talk at First Presbyterian Church, Bing., on Nov. 6.

7.3 **World Peace March**. George spoke about this world-wide peace march beginning on Oct. 2, the day of Gandhi's birth in New Zealand, and ending on Jan. 10, 2010 in Argentina. For full information go to [www.theworldmarch.org](http://www.theworldmarch.org). There is a NYS organizer.

7.3.1 **MSP** that BCPA will endorse and participate, with the Israel-Palestine Committee taking on the role of how we shall participate.

7.4 **Annual Peace and Sustainability Picnic**, Sun. Aug. 16, Bloodnick's Farm, 11 -4 pm, Apalachin. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

7.5 **Fr. Roy Bourgeois** will speak at the United Methodist Church in Endicott on Sept. 23. concerning the School of the Americas Watch.

7.6 **Armistice Day**. Vets for Peace will have an activity to reclaim the meaning of this day; endorsement will be requested at the next BCPA meeting.

## 8 Adjournment at 8:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Len Bjorkman, Secretary Pro Tem