

**Broome County Peace Action  
Minutes of Meeting, December 8, 2009  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
Binghamton, New York**

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

- 1.1 The meeting was opened at 7:05 pm by Vice President, Ann Clune
- 1.2 **Present:** Pat Creighton, Ann Clune, Jim Clune, George Haeseler, George Damasevitz, Stephen Schweitzer, George Homanich, Judy Homanich, Jack Gilroy, Stan Masters, Heda Libby, Alan Jones, Tarik Abdelazim, Bill Donohue, Joyce Donohue, Larry Roberts, Dave Duncan, Herb Bix,

**2 A moment of silence was held in remembrance of Dick Antoun.**

**3 Approve Minutes from November meeting**

- 3.1 The minutes were approved as e-mailed and posted at [bcpeaceaction.org](http://bcpeaceaction.org).

**4 Treasurer's Report – Pat Creighton.**

- 4.1 Balances: Broome County Peace Action - \$2633.92, BCNWRC - \$580.98, ST Peace Makers Fund - \$7,572.24, BC War Tax Resistance Fund: \$200.

**5 Committee reports**

- 5.1 **World March for Peace** – reported by Jack Gilroy. There were a lot of people crossing the Brooklyn Bridge but nothing in the NY Times the next day. The bus paid for itself. Those making the trip enjoyed the interactions with others on the bus.
- 5.2 **Membership** – George Haeseler – Of our 134 members, 21 have not yet renewed.

**6 New Business**

- 6.1 **Tarik Abdelazim** tendered his resignation as Board President due to work obligations with a commitment to chair the nominating committee. A motion to accept his resignation and new assignment was made, seconded, and passed.
- 6.2 **George McAnanama** (*in absentia*) made a motion that a \$200 honorarium be given to Elliott Adams of Veterans for Peace for his talk he will give to BCPA at our January meeting.
- 6.3 A motion was made, seconded, and passed that an honorarium of \$200 be given to tonight's speaker.
- 6.4 **George Haeseler** made a motion: "That BCPA sponsor a debate between Jonathan Tasini and Kirsten Gillibrand, the two announced candidates running in the Democratic Primary Election for the New York US Senate seat and that BCPA invite the local chapter of the League of Women Voters and an interested BU campus organization to be co-sponsors. George said that Jonathan Tasini would be similar to Dennis Kosininch." Seconded and passed.
- 6.5 **Ann Clune** appointed **George Haeseler** to be chairman of a committee to promote the proposed debate and work with the League of Women Voters and other interested parties.

- 6.6 **George Haeseler** made a motion that the following statement be adopted. "Broome County Peace Action, a 134-member local chapter of national Peace Action, supports troops who, acting on their conscience, refuse to deploy to Iraq or Afghanistan because they consider those wars and occupations to be illegal and immoral. Similarly, we support the deployed troops who for the same reason have applied for early discharge. In addition, we call on those who operate aircraft of any kind that kill Iraqis, Afghans or Pakistanis to desist. We admire the courage of all servicemen and women who actively resist these unjust wars of aggression. By rejecting their "mission" and disobeying orders at great personal risk, they are upholding the Constitution that empowers Congress alone to declare war, but does empower it to pass 'preventive' war resolutions that flout international law." Seconded and passed.
- 6.7 **George** made the further motion: "That this statement be promoted and publicized by:
- 6.7.1 news release and sending it to all the local media.
  - 6.7.2 Sending a copy to PANYS, with a cover letter requesting that it send copies to all NY chapters with our suggestion that they each adopt it as their own after modifying it with their own information and then 1. Formatting it as a publicize that version in their area.
  - 6.7.3 Sending a copy to the national Board of Peace Action, with a cover letter that they consider adopting a modified version of the resolution as official PA policy.
  - 6.7.4 Giving our two speakers this evening a copy and asking them to present it or have it presented for endorsement by the Syracuse Peace Council and the Central NY Chapter of Peace Action.
- 6.8 Motion seconded and passed.
- 6.8.1 **George** urged each Board member present to try to think of ways that BCPA can help these resisting troops other than just giving them our moral support, and to then present those ideas for consideration at future Board meetings. One way that comes easily to mind is for BCPA to make a token contribution to Iraq Veterans Against War (IVAW) and the GI Rights Hotline, as well as to suggest this type of support by individuals in the next issue of Update.
- 6.9 Human Rights Day Plans, December 10**
- 6.9.1 **Ann Clune** received a phone call from a reporter who is putting an article in the Press tomorrow about the ambivalence of the President receiving the Nobel Peace Prize shortly after saying that more troops would be sent to Afghanistan. He was asking about the proposed demonstration for the Human Rights Day to be held at Peace Park (Confluence Park).
  - 6.9.2 Ann distributed copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. She encouraged people to read it and be prepared to make a statement at the demonstration on Thursday
  - 6.9.3 It was suggested that the entire document be read. **Jim Clune, George Haeseler, Dave Duncan, George Damasevitz, and Ann Clune** volunteered to each read a section.
  - 6.9.4 It was suggested that a minute of silence for Dick Antoun be held at the beginning.
- 6.10 **Jack Gilroy** suggested that we put pressure on **Senator Schumer** and **Representative Hinchey**. Thursday is a "drop-in" day throughout the State where we are encouraged to drop in our Senators. Jack will contact each office.
- 6.11 **Dave Duncan** suggested that there should not be lots of e-mails going back and forth on the day of the meeting. For those who can only check their e-mail in the evening, it is a lot to absorb before the meeting. It was suggested that items for the meeting be completed at least 24 hours before each meeting.

6.12 **Ann** would like to have no speakers at the February meeting so that we can more time for discussion of policy matters.

**7 Adjournment at 7:58 pm**

**8 After adjournment there was a talk by Ed Kinane of the Syracuse Peace Council about the drones being flown over Afghanistan and Pakistan and controlled from Hancock field near Syracuse.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Alan Jones, Secretary**