

# Interfaith Peace Walk for Jewish-Muslim Reconciliation

## Minutes of Meeting No. 11

<b>Location</b>	Philadelphia, PA	<b>Issue Date</b>	January 17, 2005
<b>Type</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meeting <input type="checkbox"/> Phone Call  <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Date Held</b>	December 16, 2004
<b>Subject</b>	Interfaith Peace Walk for Jewish-Muslim Reconciliation— Planning Meeting	<b>Place Held</b>	Al-Aqsa Society, Philadelphia, PA
		<b>Recorded By</b>	L. Laver

<b>Participants:</b> Edd Conboy Vic Compher Nijmie Dzurinko Adab Ibrahim Peter Handler Lance Laver Jim McGovern Bob Nesbitt Rafi Rom Renate Woessner	<b>Distribution:</b> Attendees Interfaith Peace Walk E-Mail List
--	--

No.	Item	Action By	Due Date
11.01	<b>Purpose:</b> Interfaith Peace Walk for Jewish-Muslim Reconciliation Planning Meeting		
11.02	<p><b>Opening prayer:</b> V. Compher opened the meeting with a request for a communal silent prayer to meditate on what brings us together to do this work. This silence was followed by the regular chanted <i>salat</i> prayer of the mosque, translated in part as: <i>God created people without knowledge...we are enlightened from the messenger from God, which purifies the soul.</i> We then spoke briefly about why we are here:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I am troubled by things in our culture—the war in Iraq, violence. I come here because it inspires hope, rather than our government’s action, which try to divide us...it’s radical to be crossing boundaries, but the Peace Walk is the best example...we did what many said was not possible...here, we are nurturing that flame during winter.</li> <li>• Sometimes we need teachers to nurture us, as I have been recently from women prisoners now at a house (St. Bonaventure) at 9th and Lehigh, who have reminded me that we are all born in the image of God...the Peace Walk was another way of knowing that. I still shake when I think of the Imam singing in the church, which exuded peace, warmth and love.</li> <li>• One of the lessons of this season for Jews is that Chanukah brings light from darkness. We remember not the military victory that won back the sacred space—or the oil that burned for eight days, not one. We remember that the people had the</li> </ul>		

**INTERFAITH PEACE WALK for MUSLIM-JEWISH RECONCILIATION  
PHILADELPHIA, PA**

**Meeting Minutes No. 11**

Date: January 17, 2004

Page 2 of 4

No.	Item	Action By	Due Date
	<p><i>hope</i> that the light would keep burning. The miracle was that it did. Hope is what we have to bring light into the world.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is a breath of fresh air. We are saying no to a dividing government, and yes to inclusiveness, knowing that Jews, Christians and Muslims can walk together and do important work together in a poisonous atmosphere.</li> </ul>		
11.03	<p><b>Peace Walk 2005:</b> The theme for the May 22, 2005 Peace Walk will continue the message of the first Peace Walk: to build community and interfaith dialogue and promote peace and understanding among all people. We discussed some possible actions around the Peace Walk, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ways to reach out to various and different faith communities.</li> <li>Walking to various neighborhood places representing grass roots healing in the community (e.g., at a church exemplifying the work of “Mothers in Charge,” a group dedicated to stopping random gun violence in the streets, which last year conducted a march of 10,000 through city streets); or</li> <li>Walking to places acknowledging the spiritual/emotional/physical toll and healing needed from the Iraq War—as exemplified by the 857 pairs of surrogate boots of slain soldiers displayed at Independence Mall last year as part of the AFSC <i>Eyes Wide Open</i> exhibit...which is now over 1,300.</li> <li>Specific hands-on projects that the group can do together prior to the Peace Walk (see 11.04 below).</li> </ul> <p>Peace Walk stops at religious places might include Mikveh Israel/ Jewish Museum, Al-Aqsa Mosque, a Catholic or Protestant church, or Bahai or Buddhist places of worship. Discussion to continue at next (January) meeting.</p>		
11.04	<p><b>Hands-on projects: Ref. 9.07:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As a follow-up to the last meeting’s [Meeting No. 8] discussion about possible group hands-on projects, we again discussed re-starting <b>Maimonah (“prosperity)</b>—a North African (Moroccan) custom where Jews brought the first meal to Muslims at the end of Ramadan and Muslims brought the first bread to Jews at the end of Passover. People/communities in the group have held the event twice. Sharing food during (or after) a holy day led to a decision to have a communal Iftar break fast during Ramadan (see section 9.08 below).</li> <li>V. Compher reminded the group about the “<b>Struggle / Work / Play / Intellect</b>” model discussed at the last meeting and Iftekhhar Hussain’s comments about building trust through physical, hands-on projects. A. Ibrahim, L. Laver and P. Handler reinforced this approach through examples of similar work with community building groups (see Minutes of Meeting No. 8 for details).</li> <li>V. Compher also noted the <b>Peace Garden</b> that people created at 20<sup>th</sup> and W. Norris Streets as another example of a successful community project.</li> <li>P. Coyne mentioned the possibility of working with the <b>Greater Philadelphia Food Bank</b> (at Second and Berks Sts.), where groups can earn 10 lbs. of food credits for an hour worked—and the organization can designate where the food should go. Bagging food is an activity that children and adults can participate in. She will follow up with information about this option and other possible community/building activities that the group might pursue together</li> </ul>		



**INTERFAITH PEACE WALK for MUSLIM-JEWISH RECONCILIATION  
PHILADELPHIA, PA**

**Meeting Minutes No. 11**

Date: January 17, 2004

Page 4 of 4

No.	Item	Action By	Due Date
	<p>compassionate listening work of Leah Green in the Middle East.</p> <p>The next festival planning meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 6, 2005 at Green Village, 15<sup>th</sup> &amp; Cherry Sts. At 7:00 PM. All are invited to attend and to suggest worthwhile films. For more information, go to the festival's website at <a href="http://www.philadelphiapalestinefilmfestival.org">www.philadelphiapalestinefilmfestival.org</a>, which includes a list of co-sponsors.</p>		
11.05	<p><b>Compassionate Listening:</b> We discussed options for other groups sponsoring a <i>Compassionate Listening</i> program, including the Interfaith Center (IF) at 3723 Chestnut Street in the renovated church that houses the IF, Arts &amp; Spirituality Center and TOVA. (V. Compher will follow up.) This event could happen within the context of an "interfaith evening" open to the public.</p>	V. Compher	1/18/04
11.06	<p><b>Documentary film project on the Peace Walk: Ref. 9.06:</b> V. Compher reported that he has today (10/13/04) received the final 17-minute version of the documentary film of the Peace Walk made by Usame Tunagur as part of an Ohio University graduate film school project. VHS copies will be available to Peace Walk participants for \$7.00 each, and DVD copies also may be available.</p> <p>Copies of the Peace Walk film are now available in VHS and DVD formats for \$7.00 each. Contact V. Compher for copies.</p>		
11.07	<p><b>January 2005 Interfaith Program: Ref. 10.10:</b> A. Waskow stated that the newly-formed Philadelphia Interfaith Peace Network is planning an event around Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday and the Muslim community observing of Eid al-Adha, the memorial for Abraham's near sacrifice of his son (Ishmael in Muslim tradition). The plan is to gather in one place—in a mosque on the weekend of January 22-23, making clear "that the medium is the message. Rather than war between the US and Islam, we choose peace between and among Judaism, Christianity &amp; Islam," as he wrote in a subsequent e-mail. Further discussion to occur at the December meeting.</p>	A. Waskow and Phila. Interfaith Peace Network	
11.08	<p><b>Next Peace Walk planning meeting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Wednesday, January 19, 2005 at Al-Aqsa (time changed to 8:15 PM).</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Date for 2005 Peace Walk:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sunday, May 22, 2005.</b></li> </ul>		