

# Interfaith Peace Walk for Jewish-Muslim Reconciliation

Philadelphia – May 2, 2004

## Minutes of Meeting No. 4

<b>Location</b>	Philadelphia, PA	<b>Issue Date</b>	April 4, 2004
<b>Type</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meeting <input type="checkbox"/> Phone Call  <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Date Held</b>	March 24, 2004
<b>Subject</b>	Fourth Interfaith Peace Walk for Jewish-Muslim Reconciliation Planning Meeting	<b>Place Held</b>	Al-Aqsa Society, Philadelphia, PA
		<b>Recorded By</b>	L. Laver

<p><b>Participants:</b> (*Denotes Part-Time)</p> <p>Dr. M. Almashhadani, Al-Aqsa Society          Mohammad Aziz, ISGVR          Joe Clay, St. Vincent de Paul          Vic Compher, Tabernacle United Church (TAB)          Sean Dolan, St. Augustine Church          Driss El Bakhada, Community College          Adab Ibrahim, Al-Aqsa Society          Nabil Khalil, Al-Aqsa Society          Bilal Khan, Temple University          Marwan Kreidie, Philo-Arab American CDL          Lance Laver, Mishkan Shalom / ICBG          Rabbi Jill Maderer, Rodeph Shalom          Jim McGovern, Catholic Peace Coalition          Mizba Mirza, Temple University, ISGVF          Shahid Modiudin, Temple University MSA          George Mordecai, BZBI / Arab-Jewish Dialogue Group</p> <p>Steve Newman, Tikkun / Temple University          Victoria Pearson, Christian Association, Univ. of Penn          Waqar Rehman, Temple MSA          April Rosenblum, Mishkan Shalom / Temple University          Susan Rouda, PJPN, Wall Working Group          Tariq Scherfen, Al-Aqsa Society          Osama abu Shariefah, Al-Aqsa Society          Rubina Tareen, SCIS          Billy Yalowitz, Temple University</p>	<p><b>Distribution:</b></p> <p>Attendees</p> <p>Irv Ackelsberg          Elayne Ashbey          Judith Axler          Kathy Bergen          Joe Brenman          Joanie Brooks          Wilbur Bryant          Allison Carter          Mitchell Chanin          Rory Cohen          Brian Daniels          Katie Day          Roy Feinberg          Jim Feldman          Sr. Sheila Flynn</p> <p>Fara Gaye          Ron Goldwyn          Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb          Jeanne-Marie Hagan          Jan Hamer          Monica Hannon          Eman Hasan          Ahmed Hefuna          Rabbi Linda Holtzman          Katherine Huseman          Riham Ibrahim          Rachel Kamel          Josef Kardos          Haajerah Khan          Al Krass          Rabbi Nancy Kreimer          Jeanne Ayesha Lauenborg</p>	<p>Mary Laver          Rob Rafi Levin          Margaret Lenzi          Herb Levine          Rabbi Yael Levy          Dr. Nancy Lydick          Mary Martin          Steve Masters          My Mohammad          Ron Morgan          Malik Mubashshir          Tim O'Connell          Patricia Pearce          Alex Pearl          Susan Quant          Abdul Rauf Campos-Marquetti          John Rice          Janis Risch          Jenny Sawyer          Lil Sigal          Sharon Sigal          Larry Snider          Cy Swartz          Lois Swartz          Robin Syed          Susan Teegen-Case          Rhoda Toperzer          Carol Towarnicky          Antonio Valle          Abdul Yassin          Ahlam Yassin          Dena Zakaria          Simone Zelitch</p>
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No.	Item	Action By	Due Date
4.01	<b>Purpose:</b> Fourth Philadelphia-area group Peace Walk planning meeting.		
4.02	<b>Introductions:</b> The meeting, chaired by Marwan Kreidie, began with self-introductions of all participants.		
4.03	<b>Minutes of Meeting No. 3:</b> The Minutes were re-distributed and accepted as submitted (except for the following e-mail correction for Victoria Pearson in the <i>Logistics Sub-Committee</i> : pearsonv@pobox.upenn.edu).		
4.04	<p><b>Flyers/Posters:</b> Rubina Tureen discussed the latest version of the flyer created by her father-in-law, Mike Scherfen. This version has the two symbols representing the Jewish and Muslim religions overlapping at the top in a single tone. Vic Compher discussed an alternate version with the two symbols separated at the top around the words <i>Interfaith Peace Walk</i>. After some discussion, the group determined that each planner use the most appropriate flyer/poster for his/her outreach efforts. Rubina and Vic both brought multiple copies for people to take/use in the outreach effort.</p> <p>(Note: See Rubina's e-mail of 3/17/04 for electronic versions of the flyer and poster. Please respond to the e-mail message with these Minutes (to Lance Laver)—or directly to Rubina—if you wish to have the 3/17/04 e-mail transmitted.)</p> <p><i>(Post-meeting note: Copies of the alternate flyer—without symbols and with symbols separated at the top—were e-mailed to the Peace Walk list serve on 3/29/04.)</i></p>		
4.05	<p><b>Statement of purpose:</b> The final statement of purpose text on each of the flyers (which the Outreach sub-committee spent an entire meeting resolving) reads as follows:</p> <p><b><i>We invite people of all faiths to join us on a spiritual journey. As we walk from Al-Aqsa Mosque to Congregation Rodeph Shalom, we will lament war and the loss of life. We will pray for the safety and freedom of all people. We will embrace hope, not fear. The true pathway of peace is God's desire for love and justice, not military might. Join with us to show that peace between people of all faiths is possible.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Let us call out Salaam. Let us call out Shalom. Let us call out Peace in the language of Love.</i></b></p>		
4.06	<p><b>Program/Worship sub-committee report:</b> April Rosenblum offered the following report of the Program/Worship sub-committee's meeting on 2/25/04):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no rain date for the walk, so the flyers should say: "Rain or shine." We should have a back-up program plan in case of heavy rain.</li> <li>• We agreed that we come to each house of worship as guests and should experience the prayers as they are offered to us.</li> </ul>		

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	<p>People from each congregation will lead each service. Every service should have at least one ecumenical prayer that people of any faith can join together and pray. Each program will be approximately 15 minutes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We discussed wearing symbols of both religions, but felt that symbols might engender uncomfortable reactions by some people, and the best approach is simply to wear white, as the flyer suggests.</li> <li>• At the opening gathering at Al-Aqsa, there was much enthusiasm for the program happening inside, possibly with the imam or Marwan making supplications for the effort to go well. We also discussed having Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb and Abdul Rauf, as the source of the original Peace Walks, give a brief intention for the walk at the end of this program. (Note: At this meeting, the Al-Aqsa planners said that there will be prayers inside, and the program then will take place outside—in the large parking area to the side of the building.)</li> <li>• Jim McGovern and Sean Dolan will get together with the priest at St. Augustine's to plan the program at the church.</li> <li>• The Liberty Bell program will be short—with no more than three speakers (from the various faiths) of 2-3 minutes each, followed by singing together and moving on to the next stop.</li> <li>• Rabbi Yael Levy and Rabbi Jill Maderer will speak about the program at Congregation Rodeph Shalom.</li> <li>• All agreed that singing while walking is a good idea; and Sharon Sigal will look into appropriate songs.</li> <li>• It would be helpful to have the route outlined on the flyer for people who can participate only in part of the walk.</li> <li>• George Mordecai has spoken to a colleague about providing a more sophisticated system for the Peace Café part at the end of the Rodeph Shalom program. (Note: George and Rabbi Jill will check on Rodeph Shalom's sound system for this purpose prior to arranging for a separate system.) We still need to confirm a sound system for the Liberty Bell (at a minimum a bullhorn is available).</li> <li>• The end at Rodeph Shalom should include an announcement of individual thanks to those who helped create the event (perhaps a Muslim and Jewish child could read these aloud together). Perhaps a second rabbi-imam could take on the role that Rabbi Lynn and Abdul Rauf had at the beginning.</li> <li>• Logistics about conduct during the walk should be announced during the walk itself. We should, however, start each departure from prayer services either singing or in silence, not casually chatting.</li> <li>• The sub-committee felt that fund raising should be limited to a "grass roots" approach, rather than seeking sponsorships.</li> <li>• Each house of prayer will have refreshments (including water) available to walkers.</li> </ul>		

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No.	Item	Action By	Due Date
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next Program/Worship sub-committee meeting: Wednesday, March 24 at Mishkan Shalom, beginning at 7:30 PM.</li> </ul>		
4.07	<p><b>Outreach sub-committee report:</b> Vic discussed the committee's outreach efforts and reviewed the list of organizations to contact. At this meeting, the group discussed the original list (from Minutes of Meeting No. 3) and added names of group/individuals to contact with flyers, personal calls and presentations (summarized below with volunteers noted):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-Faith Center (Vic and George already have made a presentation there).</li> <li>• Brandywine Peace Fellowship (Jim McGovern).</li> <li>• Islamic Department at Villanova (Waqar Rehman).</li> <li>• Jewish Community Relations Council (George M.).</li> <li>• American Jewish Committee (Steve Newman).</li> <li>• Temple (Many in attendance attend Temple).</li> <li>• Center City Kehillah (Rabbi Jill).</li> <li>• Board of Rabbis (Rabbi Jill).</li> <li>• Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting (Victoria Pearson).</li> <li>• Reconstructionist Rabbinical College (Lance L.).</li> <li>• Friends' meeting houses (Victoria P.).</li> <li>• Archdiocese of Philadelphia (Interfaith office) (Joe Clay).</li> <li>• Multi-campus Hillel (Steve N. &amp; Victoria P. (at Penn)).</li> <li>• Coalition of churches in New Jersey (Rubina T.).</li> <li>• Black churches in the area (Tyrone Buchanan).</li> <li>• Shalom Aleichem Club (Sue Rouda).</li> <li>• Shalom Center (Steve N.).</li> <li>• Progressive Zionist Alliance (Lance L.).</li> <li>• African American Islamic Alliance (Waqar R.).</li> <li>• Hispanic churches in the area (Jim M.).</li> <li>• Metropolitan Christian Council (Victoria P.).</li> <li>• School of the Americas Watch-Northeast (Lance L.).</li> <li>• Arab-American Anti-Discrimination group (Marwan K.).</li> <li>• Union for Reformed Judaism (Jill M.).</li> <li>• JPJM (Sue R.).</li> <li>• Muslim Student Association (MSA) (Shahid Modiudin).</li> <li>• Bahai group (Vic C.).</li> <li>• Unitarian Society of Germantown (Steve N.).</li> <li>• American Muslim Society (Adab Ibrahim).</li> <li>• BAWA Fellowship (Marwan K.).</li> <li>• Northwest Interfaith Movement (Steve N.).</li> <li>• Villanova University Peace and Justice group (Sean Dolan)</li> <li>• Cabrini College Wolfington Center—Community Outreach (Lance L.)</li> <li>• Newman Center (Penn) (Victoria P.)</li> </ul>		

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	<p><b>Media outreach:</b> The committee has a draft press release, which will be formalized in the next few weeks and issued to media contacts approximately two weeks prior to the Walk. The group will also contact public radio and TV (Channel 35) and KWY for possible interview options. Contacts include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Philadelphia Inquirer (J. Remsen, religion writer) (Joe C.).</li> <li>• Phila. Daily News (R. Goldwyn, religion writer) (Lance L.).</li> <li>• The Star (Nabil Khalid).</li> <li>• The Tribune (TBD).</li> </ul> <p>(Note: Press are permitted in the mosque.)</p>		
4.08	<p><b>Conflict Resolution sub-committee:</b> Marwan reported that the Philadelphia Police and Civil Affairs Division are OK with the Walk. Specifics of Walk activities on federal property TBD (but it is also OK). Refreshments will be provided at each stop, and the group will identify/designate available rest rooms along the way. People should bring water with them. Needed: Vans and rest room plan.</p> <p><b>Peacekeepers training:</b> In an e-mail to the group on 3/30/04, Joe Clay noted the following:</p> <p>We will need a minimum of 20 trained peacekeepers for the event. That means we need to training 30-40. Please get this requirement to as many a possible. I would appreciate it if those who plan to attend training would email me [<a href="mailto:jvfc3@msn.com">jvfc3@msn.com</a>]. Training will be on Tuesday, April 27th at 7PM at Tabernacle Church [37<sup>th</sup> &amp; Chestnut Sts.). Training will last approximately 2 1/2 hours.</p>		
4.09	<p><b>Fund raising:</b> Rubina volunteered to head up this committee. In a spontaneous fund raising effort at the meeting, the group raised \$142.00. We will continue to fund raise in this "grass roots" way (and not through organizational sponsorships) to raise funds for basic Walk costs (such as printing and art supplies).</p>		
4.10	<p><b>Peace Walk route:</b> For general reference, the intended walk route/agenda for the Peace Walk on May 2 follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1:00 PM: Meet at Al-Aqsa Mosque and gather inside for daily prayers (3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; Jefferson Sts.).</li> <li>• 1:30 – 1:45 PM: Program outside the mosque.</li> <li>• 1:45 – 2:30 PM: Walk to St. Augustine's Church (4<sup>th</sup> &amp; Vine).</li> <li>• 2:30 – 2:45 PM: Prayers/program at the church.</li> <li>• 2:45 – 3:00 PM: Walk to the Liberty Bell.</li> <li>• 3:00 – 3:15 PM: Program at the Liberty Bell.</li> <li>• 3:30 – 4:30 PM: Walk to Rodeph Shalom.</li> <li>• 4:30 – 4:45 PM: Prayer/program at the synagogue.</li> <li>• 4:45 – 5:30 PM: Interactive Peace Café.</li> <li>• 5:30 PM: Vans return to Al-Aqsa Mosque</li> </ul>		

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4.11	<p><b>Seder for Jewish-Muslim Reconciliation:</b> April R. invited people of all faiths to a Passover seder at Mishkan Shalom on Saturday, April 10, at 8:00 PM with the theme of Jewish-Muslim Reconciliation—inspired by our Peace Walk. April handed out flyers for the event that said the following:</p> <p><i>During troubled times, it's hard to see—but new growth is sprouting up in relationships between Muslims and Jews in our community. This year we celebrate a renewal of hope for our two peoples, as we ask: What are our common roots? What are our distinctions? And what will the world look like when we cross this sea together?</i></p> <p>The flyer also noted that</p> <p><i>Passover is one of the most important holidays for Jews around the world. Surrounded by our loved ones and honored guests (like you!), we commemorate our liberation from slavery in Egypt at the Seder [pronounced "say"-der], a communal meal that tells the story of the Exodus. For many Jews, this is a time to remind ourselves of the injustices that still plague the world, and to gain energy to work for the liberation of all peoples.</i></p> <p>This "dessert seder" is an after-dinner event, with kosher for Passover/halal desserts and refreshments. The seder will include Jewish and Arabic song from the Mishkan Community Choir with Fatema Chebchoub, Cantor George Mordecai and Mishkan member Sharon Sigel [George and Sharon are Peace Walk planners].</p> <p>If you plan to attend, please respond to April Rosenblum at 215/508-0226 x6 or by e-mail to <a href="mailto:grapeape@temple.edu">grapeape@temple.edu</a>.</p> <p>Mishkan Shalom is located at 4101 Freeland Avenue, Philadelphia, at the corner of Shurs Lane and Freeland Ave. in Roxborough.</p>		
4.12	<p><b>Committees:</b> For reference (as folks have asked about committee members and e-mails), sub-committee volunteers and e-mail addresses are noted below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Program/Worship Sub-Committee:</u></b> Responsible for developing the services/programs at each house of prayer/stop; music and other artistic pieces.</li> </ul> <p><b>Volunteers:</b>            Mohammad Aziz (<a href="mailto:mhammodi@hotmail.com">mhammodi@hotmail.com</a>), Fara Gaye (<a href="mailto:faragaye@yahoo.com">faragaye@yahoo.com</a>),            Lance Laver (<a href="mailto:llaver4@comcast.net">llaver4@comcast.net</a>),            Rob Levin (<a href="mailto:rafirob@aol.com">rafirob@aol.com</a>),            Rabbi Yael Levy (<a href="mailto:ravyael@mishkan.org">ravyael@mishkan.org</a>),            Jim McGovern (<a href="mailto:batesius@yahoo.com">batesius@yahoo.com</a>),            George Mordecai (<a href="mailto:girji@juno.com">girji@juno.com</a>),            April Rosenblum (<a href="mailto:grapeape@temple.edu">grapeape@temple.edu</a>),            Lil Sigal (<a href="mailto:lilsigal@verizon.com">lilsigal@verizon.com</a>),            Sharon Sigal (<a href="mailto:simasong@aol.com">simasong@aol.com</a>),            Billy Yalowitz (<a href="mailto:byalowitz@dca.net">byalowitz@dca.net</a>).</p> <p>.....</p>		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Outreach Sub-Committee:</u></b> Responsible for public relations, media and outreach. <b>Volunteers:</b> Judith Axler (harbater@math.upenn.edu), Vic Compher (viccompher@comcast.net), Jim Feldman (aelaw2@aol.com), Haajerah Khan (haajkahn@hotmail.com), Herb Levine (execff@aol.com), Nancy (Nasiha) Lydick (nm.lydick@verizon.net), Jim McGovern (batesius@yahoo.com), Rubina Tareen (rtareen@earthlink.net), Dena Zakaria (denapsu@hotmail.com). .....</li> <li>• <b><u>Conflict Resolution Sub-Committee:</u></b> Responsible for peacekeeping and conflict resolution planning/action. <b>Volunteers:</b> Dr. Mohammad Almashhadani (mhammodi@hotmail.com), Allison Carter (aicarter@aol.com), Joe Clay (jvfc3@msn.com), Jenny Sawyer (jenny.sawyer@phila.gov), Tariq Scherfen (rtareen@earthlink.net). .....</li> <li>• <b><u>Logistics Sub-Committee:</u></b> Responsible for finalizing route, refreshments, vans/transport, legal/emergency issues, permitting and civil affairs support <b>Volunteers:</b> Ahmed Hefuna (menchilin@yahoo.com), Marwan Kreidie (mkridie1@comcast.net), Rabbi Jill Maderer (rabbimaderer@rodephshalom.org), Victoria Pearson (pearsonv@pobox.upenn.edu). .....</li> <li>• <b><u>Fund Raising Sub-Committee:</u></b> <b>Volunteer:</b> Rubina Tareen (rtareen@earthlink.net). .....</li> </ul>		
4.13	<p><b>Next group meeting:</b> <b>Wednesday, April 14, 2004 at Al-Aqsa Society, 1501 Germantown Avenue (3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; Jefferson Sts.) at 7:00 PM.</b></p>		