

# Interfaith Peace Walk for Jewish-Muslim Reconciliation

Philadelphia – May 2, 2004

## Minutes of Meeting No. 5

<b>Location</b>	Philadelphia, PA	<b>Issue Date</b>	April 18, 2004
<b>Type</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meeting <input type="checkbox"/> Phone Call  <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Date Held</b>	April 14, 2004
<b>Subject</b>	Fifth 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          Abdul Khafid Armstrong, Masjid Ullah          Joe Clay, St. Vincent de Paul          Vic Compher, Tabernacle United Church (TAB)          Edd Conboy          Katie Day, Tabernacle United Church          Sean Dolan, St. Augustine Church          Jim Feldman, Mishkan Shalom          Adab Ibrahim, Al-Aqsa Society          Ahmed Hefuna, Arab-Jewish Dialogue Group          Marwan Kreidie, Philo-Arab American CDL          Lance Laver, Mishkan Shalom / ICBG          Herb Levine, Fellowship Farm/Germantown Jewish Center          Rabbi Jill Maderer, Rodeph Shalom          Jim McGovern, Catholic Peace Coalition          George Mordecai, BZBI / Arab-Jewish Dialogue Group          Steve Newman, Tikkun / Temple University          April Rosenblum, Mishkan Shalom / Temple University          Lil Sigal, Mishkan Shalom          Sharon Sigal, Mishkan Shalom</p> <p><b>Distribution:</b></p> <p>Attendees          Osama abu Shariefah          Irv Ackelsberg          Elayne Ashbey          Mohammad Aziz          Judith Axler          Kathy Bergen          Joe Brenman          Joanie Brooks          Wilbur Bryant          Allison Carter          Dyhan Cassie</p>	<p><b>Distribution:</b></p> <p>Mitchell Chanin          Rory Cohen          Brian Daniels          Roy Feinberg          Jim Feldman          Sr. Sheila Flynn          Fara Gaye          Ron Goldwyn          Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb          Jeanne-Marie Hagan          Jan Hamer          Monica Hannon          Eman Hasan          Rabbi Linda Holtzman          Katherine Huseman          Riham Ibrahim          Rachel Kamel          Josef Kardos          Nehad Khader          Bilal Khan          Haajerah Khan          Al Krass          Rabbi Nancy Kreimer          Jeanne Ayesha Lauenborg          Bilal Khan          Mary Laver          Margaret Lenzi          Rob Rafi Levin          Rabbi Yael Levy          Dr. Nancy Lydick          Mary Martin          Steve Masters          Mizba Mirza          My Mohammad          Shahid Mohiuddin</p>	<p><b>Distribution:</b></p> <p>Ron Morgan          Malik Mubashshir          Emily Nepon          Tim O'Connell          Patricia Pearce          Alex Pearl          Victoria Pearson          Susan Quant          Abdul Rauf Campos-Marquetti          Waqar Rehman          John Rice          Janis Risch          Susan Rouda          Jenny Sawyer          Tariq Scherfen          Larry Snider          Cy Swartz          Lois Swartz          Robin Syed          Rubina Tareen          Susan Teegen-Case          Rhoda Toperzer          Carol Towarnicky          Antonio Valle          Arthur Waskow          Billy Yalowitz          Abdul Yassin          Ahlam Yassin          Dena Zakaria          Simone Zelitch</p>
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No.	Item	Action By	Due Date
5.01	<b>Purpose:</b> Fifth Philadelphia-area group Peace Walk planning meeting.		
5.02	<b>Opening prayer:</b> Dr. M. Almashhadani opened the meeting by chanting an Arabic prayer. He then noted that the prayer is the beginning of the Koran, which speaks about the different religions and includes a supplication to start everything with the name of Allah.		
5.03	<p><b>Civil Affairs Unit Participation:</b> Meeting chair Marwan Kreidie introduced Captain William V. Fisher, Commanding Office, Philadelphia Civil Affairs Unit, who spoke about the Unit's participation in the Peace Walk, permit applications and conduct during the Walk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civil Affairs assists in several protects/marches/walks a year. This Walk is a normal event that falls under the First Amendment (freedom of speech).</li> <li>• We will have the support of Civil Affairs and the Philadelphia Police Department.</li> <li>• As the Walk will have over 75 people, we need to apply to Managing Director Gloria Jackson to obtain a permit, which sanctions the event and makes the city liable for participants' safety. J. Maderer will ask about this permit.</li> <li>• Sunday is a good day for the Walk, as there is less vehicular traffic to contend with; and we will be walking with the flow of traffic.</li> <li>• If we run into any problems, we should feel free to mention Captain Fisher's name.</li> <li>• We should fill out the permit for between 500 and 1,000 participants (1,000 fits into a city block). Then it will be OK to walk in the street. The police will close cross-intersections to vehicular traffic. If the Phillies are home that day, it is sometimes more difficult to get the traffic police out, but Captain Fisher will ensure that we have proper coverage. <i>(Post-meeting note: The Phillies play Arizona at home on May 2.)</i></li> <li>• Independence National Park continues to change administrators. The current one is Phil Sheridan. A separate permit is required to use federal property for the Walk.</li> <li>• A federal court order by Judge Fulham made it permissible to exercise first amendment rights on federal property. We should refer to this court order if we are told by any federal officials that the docket is "all filled up" and we can't walk.</li> <li>• Once at the federal complex, the following applies: From Fifth Street to the end of the courthouse at Seventh Street, the Philadelphia police have jurisdiction of the street/blacktop, while the federal government has jurisdiction of the sidewalks.</li> <li>• Some other groups with their own agendas might try to intervene, carry signs and call out their messages (e.g.,</li> </ul>	J. Maderer	4/30/04

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	<p>Vietnam Veterans, PETA, Anarchists). In response to a question about whether our peacekeepers should intervene (by calmly informing the other protestors of the focus of the Walk and the absence of political signs), Captain Fisher noted that the First Amendment permits anyone to peacefully march or walk or offer their message. He prefers that if we see anyone get out of hand that we inform the police, rather than trying to handle the situation ourselves, so that the situation doesn't get messy and because the police are trained to deal with these conditions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When we apply for the federal permit, note which area at the Liberty Bell we want to use ("A," "B" or "C"). We will receive a permit for that particular area. Indicate an expectation of 1,000 people.</li> </ul> <p>The group enthusiastically thanked Captain Fisher for coming to the planning meeting, his explanation and the forthcoming assistance from Civil Affairs.</p>		
5.04	<p><b>Introductions:</b> All participants introduced themselves and the groups with which they are affiliated.</p>		
5.05	<p><b>Peacekeepers' Training:</b> J. Clay reiterated the need for people to participate in the Peacekeepers' Training on Tuesday, 4/27/04, at Tabernacle United Church, 37<sup>th</sup> and Chestnut Street (use side entrance on 37<sup>th</sup> Street) at 7:00 PM. The intention is to have 20 peacekeepers available to monitor the Walk on 5/2. There are approximately 10-15 signed up for the training, including those who signed up at this meeting; however, the trainer indicated that 30 should be trained (in case some can't make it).</p> <p>Peacekeepers will walk outside the line of the Walk, keep the Walk moving and prevent engagement of our people with hecklers or other protestors. It is important to have people from each faith group be part of the peacekeepers, who will be identified by T-shirts or armbands.</p> <p><u>All are encouraged to attend this hands-on training session.</u> Please contact Joe Clay if you can come [jvfc3@msn.com].</p>		
5.06	<p><b>Minutes of Meeting No. 4:</b> The Minutes were re-distributed and accepted as submitted.</p>		
5.07	<p><b>Vehicular transport:</b> We will look into renting a handicapped-accessible bus (or two buses) to transport people from Rodeph Shalom at 615 N. Broad Street back to Al Aqsa Mosque at 3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; Jefferson (1501 Germantown Avenue) at the end of the Walk and Interactive Peace Café.</p> <p>We will also try to have a station wagon available during the Walk for elders or others needing a ride during the event. Everyone should ask about availability of vans (from relatives, friends, or co-congregants). V. Compher's son, for example, will be available with his small SUV to help out as needed with people transport.</p>	S. Newman	4/23/04

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5.08	<p><b>Rest room facilities:</b> The following rest room facilities should be available during the Walk: Al Aqsa Society (2), St. Augustine's Church (4), Rodeph Shalom, Independence Mall Visitors' Center (no security at rest rooms) and the Gallery. J. Maderer will check on other rest rooms at the national park.</p>		
5.09	<p><b>Refreshments:</b> Refreshments, including water, will be available at each house of prayer stop.</p>		
5.10	<p><b>Fund raising:</b> V. Compher confirmed that tax-deductible contributions for the Peace Walk can be made through checks to "Tabernacle United Church." Those wishing to contribute by check can mail checks to the following address:            Tabernacle United Church / Attn: Interfaith Peace Walk            37<sup>th</sup> &amp; Chestnut Streets            Philadelphia, PA 19104.            Alternatively, mail checks to Vic Compher at 2114 Appletree Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.            Be sure to mark ATTN: INTERFAITH PEACE WALK on both your check and on the envelope in which you mail it (to either address).            At Meeting No. 4, we collected \$142 from the participants. At this meeting, we collected \$184 for a total of \$326.            Planners are encouraged to ask their respective congregations/ organizations to contribute as well.</p>		
5.11	<p><b>Program/Worship sub-committee report:</b> S. Sigal reported on the Program/Worship sub-committee activities, complemented by comments from representatives of each of the program stops (note: all program planning still in progress):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>1:00 PM: Meet at Al-Aqsa Mosque</b> [1501 Germantown Avenue (3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; Jefferson Street)]:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>1:00 – 1:15 PM: Prayers at Al-Aqsa:</b> Gather inside for <i>salat</i> (daily prayers) from (all are invited to participate—the mosque can accommodate approx. 200 on the women's side and 300 on the men's side for prayers...people must take off their shoes prior to entering the mosque space)...</li> <li>• <b>1:15 – 1:35 PM: Program at Al-Aqsa:</b> Speakers either inside or outside the mosque, including supplication for walk; intention for Walk from Rabbi L. Gottlieb and A. Rauf Campos-Marquetti (Walk originators).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>1:45 – 2:30 PM: Walk to St. Augustine's Church</b> [4<sup>th</sup> &amp; Vine Street].</li> <li>• <b>2:30 – 2:45 PM: Program at St. Augustine's:</b> Opening talk from Father Joe about the history of the church, including its dealing with intolerance when the church was burned...1-2 songs from choir.</li> <li>• <b>2:45 – 3:00 PM: Walk to the Liberty Bell.</b></li> </ul>		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>3:00 – 3:15 PM: Program at the Liberty Bell:</b> Focus on freedom and liberty, including short talks by M. Kreidie and Rabbi Y. Levy, followed by 1-2 song(s) led by S. Sigal. (Note: J. Clay has obtained use of a working sound system from the Brandywine Peace Group for use at the Liberty Bell.)</li> <li>• <b>3:30 – 4:30 PM: Walk to Rodeph Shalom</b> [615 N. Broad St.].</li> <li>• <b>4:30 – 4:45 PM: Program at Rodeph Shalom:</b> Welcoming to the group from the rabbi...possibly singing of songs with text from Jewish and Muslim poets/writers and/or songs from Jewish and Christian choirs....closing benediction.</li> <li>• <b>4:45 – 5:30 PM: Interactive Peace Café:</b> G. Mordecai explained this idea as groups from different traditions singing/dancing in a casual atmosphere, while Peace Walk participants interact with each other...café atmosphere with socializing and background music (not formal presentations).... possibly teaching of Muslim dancing. Contingent on commitments from different musical groups.</li> <li>• <b>5:30 PM: Returning transport:</b> Bus/vans return participants to Al-Aqsa Mosque.</li> </ul> <p><b>Schedule/Instructions:</b> L. Laver and J. McGovern will make up a sheet with this schedule, walk route and instructions for walkers to hand out at the outset. House of prayer representative should respond to either with any specific instructions at their locations.</p>		
5.12	<p><b>Outreach sub-committee report:</b> H. Levine will issue the press release put together by V. Compher to all media outlets. He will also contact WHY-FM (Marty Moss-Coane) with an idea for a possible program relating to the Peace Walk, centering on how religion is used for various ends. This program could involve the New Mexico organizers if they are here in time (Rabbi L. Gottlieb and A. Rauf Campos-Marquetti are schedule to arrive either Thursday night or Friday morning before the Walk).</p> <p>The group reviewed the list of organizations to contact with status reports from each associated respondent. The groups being contacted are as follows:</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> </ul>		

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>		
5.13	<p><b>Closing remarks:</b> V. Compher offered closing remarks. He noted that this is an exciting time for people reaching out to each other (with a backdrop of great violence going on in the world). People are pulling together, developing multi-faith dialogue opportunities, almost as a survival instinct to maintain our collective spiritual drive, to bring us closer together. He cited the recent Mishkan Shalom seder for Jewish-Muslim reconciliation as being in this spirit. Rabbi L. Gottlieb and A. Rauf Campos-Marquetti are excited, he said, about what our Philadelphia group is doing and look forward to participating with us.</p>		
5.14	<p><b>Committees:</b> For continued reference, 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.   <b>Volunteers:</b>                      Mohammad Aziz (mhammodi@hotmail.com), Fara Gaye (faragaye@yahoo.com),                      Lance Laver (llaver4@comcast.net),                      Rob Levin (rafirob@aol.com),                      Rabbi Yael Levy (ravyael@mishkan.org),                      Jim McGovern (batesius@yahoo.com),                      George Mordecai (girji@juno.com),                      April Rosenblum (grapeape@temple.edu),                      Lil Sigal (lilsigal@verizon.com),                      Sharon Sigal (simasong@aol.com),                      Billy Yalowitz (byalowitz@dca.net).                      .....</li> <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),</li> </ul>		

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	<p>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).  .....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> Volunteer:</b> Rubina Tareen (rtareen@earthlink.net).  .....</li> </ul>		
5.15	<p><b>Next group meetings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Pre-Walk meeting:</u> Wednesday, April 28, 2004 at Al-Aqsa Society, 1501 Germantown Avenue (3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; Jefferson Sts.) at 7:00 PM.</b></li> <li>• <b><u>Post-Walk meeting:</u> Wednesday, June 9, 2004 to determine next steps in the dialogue (location and agenda TBD—save the date).</b></li> </ul>		