

Interfaith Peace Walk for Jewish-Muslim Reconciliation

Philadelphia – May 2, 2004

Minutes of Meeting No. 6

Location	Philadelphia, PA	Issue Date	April 29, 2004
Type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meeting <input type="checkbox"/> Phone Call <input type="checkbox"/>	Date Held	April 28, 2004
Subject	Fifth Interfaith Peace Walk for Jewish-Muslim Reconciliation Planning Meeting	Place Held	Al-Aqsa Society, Philadelphia, PA
		Recorded By	L. Laver

<p>Participants: (*Denotes Part-Time)</p> <p>Dr. M. Almashhadani, Al-Aqsa Society Mohammad Aziz, ISGVF Rabbi Aaron Bisno, Rodeph Shalom Vic Compher, Tabernacle United Church (TAB) Roy Feinberg, Rodeph Shalom Jim Feldman, Mishkan Shalom Adab Ibrahim, Al-Aqsa Society Lance Laver, Mishkan Shalom / ICBG Herb Levine, Fellowship Farm/Germantown Jewish Center Rabbi Yael Levy, Mishkan Shalom Jim McGovern, Catholic Peace Coalition George Mordecai, BZBI / Arab-Jewish Dialogue Group Fr. Joe Mostardi, St. Augustine Church Steve Newman, Tikkun / Temple University Victoria Pearson, Christian Association, Univ. of Penn Tariq Scherfen, Al-Aqsa Society Rubina Tareen, Al-Aqsa Society</p> <p>Distribution:</p> <p>Attendees</p> <p>Osama abu Shariefah Irv Ackelsberg Judith Axler Kathy Bergen Joe Brenman Joanie Brooks Wilbur Bryant Allison Carter Dyhan Cassie Mitchell Chanin Joe Clay Rory Cohen Edd Conboy Brian Daniels</p>	<p>Distribution:</p> <p>Katie Day Sean Dolan Katie Day Roy Feinberg Jim Feldman Sr. Sheila Flynn 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 Nehad Khader Bilal Khan Haajerah Khan Al Krass Marwan Kreidie Rabbi Nancy Kreimer Jeanne Ayesha Lauenborg Bilal Khan Mary Laver Margaret Lenzi Rob Rafi Levin Dr. Nancy Lydick Rabbi Jill Maderer Mary Martin Steve Masters Mizba Mirza</p>	<p>Distribution:</p> <p>My Mohammad Shahid Mohiuddin Ron Morgan Malik Mubashshir Emily Nepon Tim O'Connell Patricia Pearce Alex Pearl Susan Quant Abdul Rauf Campos-Marquetti Waqar Rehman John Rice Janis Risch April Rosenblum Susan Rouda Jenny Sawyer Lil Sigal Sharon Sigal Tariq Scherfen Larry Snider Cy Swartz Lois Swartz Robin Syed Susan Teegen-Case Rhoda Toperzer Carol Towarnicky Antonio Valle Arthur Waskow Dan Wolk Billy Yalowitz Abdul Yassin Ahlam Yassin Dena Zakaria Simone Zelitch</p>
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**INTERFAITH PEACE WALK for MUSLIM-JEWISH RECONCILIATION
PHILADELPHIA – May 2, 2004**

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No.	Item	Action By	Due Date
7.01	Purpose: Sixth Philadelphia-area group Peace Walk planning meeting.		
7.02	Opening prayer: Dr. M. Almashhadani opened the meeting by chanting an Arabic prayer of supplication.		
7.03	Introductions: All participants introduced themselves and the groups with which they are affiliated.		
7.04	<p>Program update: L. Laver reported on the <i>Walk Route, Program & Instruction</i> sheet developed with V. Compher (with route assistance from J. McGovern). The sheet includes a <i>Welcome and General Instructions</i> section as well as the walk route and general description of programs at each house of prayer/stop. V. Pearson graciously volunteered to make copies for walkers to have on the Walk day.</p> <p>An outline of the route and program follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1:00 PM: Meet at Al-Aqsa Mosque [1501 Germantown Avenue (3rd & Jefferson Street)]: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1:00 – 1:30 PM: Prayers at Al-Aqsa: Welcome and call to prayer (1:00 –1:15 PM). Gather inside for <i>salat</i> (daily prayers)—the mosque can accommodate approx. 200 on the women's side and 300 on the men's side for prayers (1:15-1:30 PM). Then proceed outside to the front of the mosque. • 1:30 – 1:45 PM: Program at Al-Aqsa: A. Ibrahim will welcome everyone. Rabbi L. Gottlieb and Imam A. Rauf Campos-Marquetti (Walk originators) will offer an intentions and supplications for the Walk. Bottled water will be available for walkers after the program. • 1:45 – 2:30 PM: Walk to St. Augustine's Church [4th & Vine Street]. • 2:30 – 2:45 PM: Program at St. Augustine's: Fr. J. Mostardi will offer a welcome/ecumenical prayer and possibly speak about the church's history with intolerance when it was burned. Ushers will help direct people in and out of the church (which holds 1,000) through front and side doors, and direct exiting by rows from the front. Refreshments will be available outside (after the program). • 2:45 – 3:00 PM: Walk to the Liberty Bell. • 3:00 – 3:15 PM: Program at the Liberty Bell: A <i>niggun</i> (prayer without words) will lead off the program, which will focus on freedom and liberty with short talks by M. Kreidie and Rabbi Y. Levy. A song (or two) led by S. Sigal will complete the program. (Note: J. Clay has obtained use of a working sound system from the Brandywine Peace Group for use at the Liberty Bell.) • 3:30 – 4:30 PM: Walk to Rodeph Shalom [615 N. Broad St.]. 	V. Pearson	5/2/04

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4:30 – 4:45 PM: Program at Rodeph Shalom: Ushers will direct walkers into the main sanctuary (which seats 1,100) through three doors from Broad Street. After an opening music selection, the rabbi will welcome the group. There will be a short service with prayers and silence. G. Mordecai and Yassir will conclude the program with a song in Hebrew and Arabic from the works of Ibn Gabirol and Ibn Arabi (medieval poets). • 4:45 – 5:30 PM: Fellowship and socializing: Because it was not possible to put together the <i>Interactive Peace Café</i> in the available time before the Walk, we will have time for fellowship and socializing with recorded Hebrew and Arabic music and refreshments in the downstairs social hall at the conclusion of the Rodeph Shalom program. Walkers should take stairs at the front (1) and rear (2) to the social hall below. • 4:00 – 6:00 PM: Returning transport: S. Newman will investigate procuring two buses for return transport to Al-Aqsa mosque. <i>(Post-meeting note: Two 44-48-person (Yellowbird) buses will be available from 4-6 PM to transport walkers. The cost is \$180/bus.)</i> Sign-up sheets will be available for people to indicate interest in the follow-up meeting/programming stemming from the Peace Walk. L. Laver will make up sign-up sheets for placement at Al-Aqsa and Rodeph Shalom. • Follow-up/sign-up sheets: Sign-up sheets will be available for people to indicate interest in the Post-Peace Walk meeting/programming (see last section of these Minutes). L. Laver will make up sign-up sheets for use at Al-Aqsa and Rodeph Shalom. • Collection: The group decided to take up a collection at the end of the programming at Rodeph Shalom to defray Peace Walk costs and provide a kitty for future programming (see "Fund Raising" section below). 		
7.05	<p>Peacekeepers' Training: Peacekeepers training occurred on Tuesday, 4/27/04 at Tabernacle United Church for the eight attendees (A. Carter, M. Chanin, J. Clay, V. Compher, J. Feldman, L. Laver, V. Pearson and J. Sawyer). Others who will act as Peacekeepers at Sunday's Walk include Dr. M. Almashhadani, M. Aziz, C. Brenman, J. Brenman, A. Ibrahim, G. Mordecai, T. Scherfen and R. Tareen (total of 16). M. Aziz also intends to come with others who can act as Peacekeepers.</p> <p>As 24 Peacekeepers are needed, we still need as many as eight others. Anyone receiving these Minutes who wishes to act as a Peacekeeper should contact V. Compher at viccompher@comcast.net before Sunday.</p> <p>V. Pearson will provide orange armbands for Peacekeepers at the Walk.</p> <p>Peacekeeper goals and strategies as discussed by the participants in the training session are summarized below:</p>		

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	<p>Peacekeeper goals and strategies:</p> <p><u>Do</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay between the Peace walkers and others on the sidewalk, and keep Peace walkers separated from disruptive people. Work in pairs (preferably people of different religious/ethnic groups) when engaging a heckler. • Keep the Walk participants moving. • Engage a heckler peacefully, not confrontationally. Walk toward and stay in the vicinity of the heckler, while Peace walkers continue on. • If a person is angry, ask why. Try to defuse the anger by calm conversation, not rhetoric. • Be neutral in conversations with people with strong opinions, while trying to empathize with the person's position and pain. • Prevent other Peace walkers from arguing with hecklers. • If a non-walker is holding a political sign, politely ask that the person put down the sign, noting that political advocacy is not an intention of this particular walk. • Be open in body posture with hands at side or somewhat out. • Be peace. Be Gandhi. Focus and relax. • Remember the Walk statement and use it if helpful. Hand out a sheet and explain the Walk's purpose. • When completing a discussion with a heckler, end with a remark such as "Peace be with you." • If necessary to deal with a potentially violent situation (or with someone clearly out of control), request assistance from other Peacekeepers or the Civil Affairs Unit. <p><u>Don't</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't touch anyone and don't argue with anyone. Remember that the goal is not to convince the other person of the rightness of a particular argument, but the maintain order and allow the walk to continue. • Don't be in a confrontational position—either too close to the person or with arms folded (but be close enough to engage the person). Don't look the person straight in the eye...look away occasionally. • Don't preach. • Don't be anxious. 		
	<p>Other logistics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Peacekeepers to meet at 12:30 PM at Al-Aqsa to review Walk logistics.</u> • Start the Walk by being part of the afternoon <i>salat</i> in the mosque, as prayers are a good way to enter into a peaceful state individually and communally. • There will be at least one van (and possibly two) in the front and rear of the Walk. Direct (or help walk) anyone needing vehicular assistance to the closest van. • One of the vans in the front and rear should have first aid equipment and water—as well as a physician, if possible, riding along. • Maintain your relative position at the side of the walkers. If necessary to stay with a heckler for awhile, walk back to your position when finished. • We will have a chart at the 4/28/04 (tomorrow night's) planning meeting with the Peacekeepers' positions for others to sign up. We should have five pairs of Peacekeepers on each side as well as two each in the front and rear (total of 24). • Each house of prayer should provide ushers to help direct the walkers into and out of the building. Discuss at 4/28/04 meeting. • Confirm those who will walk in the front to lead. They should be familiar with the route and maintain the proper pace. 		

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7.06	<p>Decision making: If a major decision needs to be made during the Walk (e.g., cutting out a stop due to inclement weather or a medical emergency), V. Compher will convene a group from among those at the front of the Walk (Rabbi L. Gottlieb, M. Kreidie, Rabbi Y. Levy, J. McGovern and Imam A. Rauf Campos-Marquetti will lead the way) and Peacekeepers near the front (including M. Aziz, Dr. M. Almashhadani, J. Clay and L. Laver) to consult and determine how to proceed.</p>		
7.07	<p>Refreshments/facilities: Refreshments, including water, will be available at each house of prayer stop. Bathroom facilities will be available at each stop as well (including the Liberty Bell).</p>		
7.08	<p>Permitting: Rabbi J. Maderer has obtained the necessary Federal permit for the Liberty Bell part; and M. Kreidie has obtained the required city permit.</p>		
7.09	<p>Wearing white: Everyone needs to remember to wear white—at least white shirts (including the Peacekeepers). We discussed the option of encouraging people to wear white shirts with logos of their affiliated organization and decided (to avoid any conflicts with possibly objectionable organizations) to keep to white only. Buttons and other identifying paraphernalia are also discouraged.</p>		
7.10	<p>Spiral Q puppetry: V. Pearson will bring cloths of purple, blue and green (no insignias) from the Spiral Q puppetry group, and we will decide at the Walk whether it is feasible to use them (they will need to be carried by walkers and are on the heavy side).</p>		
7.11	<p>Posters: V. Pearson brought poster board, paint and brushes for the group to make Peace signs during the meeting, which we did (no political slogans). Folks can come early to the mosque on Sunday and help staple the signs to sticks.</p>		
7.12	<p>Fund raising: At Meeting No. 4, we collected \$142 from the participants. At Meeting No. 5, we collected \$184. At this meeting, we collected \$150 for a total of \$476. (The two buses alone will cost \$360-400.)</p> <p>Planners are encouraged to ask their respective congregations/organizations to contribute as well. Individuals wishing to make tax-deductible contributions to help defray the Walk's expenses can make checks out to "Tabernacle United Church" (marked on check <u>and</u> envelope) at:</p> <p>Tabernacle United Church / Attention: Interfaith Peace Walk 37th & Chestnut Streets Philadelphia, PA 19104.</p>		
7.13	<p>Outreach/media: H. Levine reported that press releases were sent to many newspapers and other organizations and the <i>Inquirer's</i> Religion editor, Jim Remsen, plans to have an article in this Saturday's paper. (He has already interviewed a number of Peace Walk planners.) People hope the article expresses the true intention of the Walk. WHYY-FM was not interested in an</p>		

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	interview with planners, as <i>Radio Times</i> had recently run a program with an Israeli and Palestinian on a similar subject.		
7.14	Closing prayer: Cantor G. Mordecai ended the meeting by chanting in Hebrew the ancient Priestly Benediction prayer: <i>May the Lord bless you and safeguard you.</i> <i>May the Lord illuminate His countenance for you and be gracious to you.</i> <i>May the Lord turn His countenance to you and establish peace for you.</i> (Numbers 6:24-26)		
7.15	Next meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Post-Walk planning meeting: Wednesday, June 9, 2004 at Mishkan Shalom (4101 Freeland Avenue, at the intersection of Freeland Ave. and Shurs Lane in Roxborough) at 7:00 PM—to determine the next steps in the interfaith dialogue.		