



**The Interfaith Alliance**  
LONG ISLAND CHAPTER  
[www.interfaithalliance-li.org](http://www.interfaithalliance-li.org)



### **Minutes – Meeting of 4/17/2009**

**Attendance:** Mark Lukens, Chair; Hank Arond; Paul Auerbach; Angela Cesa, Norma Cohen; Catherine Ehlers, Jay Grosmark, Ethel Hurvitz, Jean Judd, Marty Melkonian, Bob Nuxoll; Ruth Reeves, Rich Tibbets, John Tilton.

Mark called the meeting to order at 3:45 pm.

**Minutes:** Reading of the minutes was waived, and they were accepted as submitted.

**Treasurer's Report:** Dolores Tibbets reports \$495 in income and \$150.43 in expenses, leaving a balance of \$1,560.93.

The expenses included \$145.43 for postage, stationery, and printing a mailing to TIA National members living in Suffolk Count, plus \$5 in monthly bank fees.

The income included \$495 in Membership Dues

**Clergy Luncheon:** We continued to plan for our annual Clergy / Lay Leaders Luncheon, which is scheduled for Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 1:00pm in the Veatch Ballroom at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock. Several members volunteered to assist with various tasks including food, invitations, and hosting. Marty suggested that Sr. Mary Beth Moore be one of the speakers. A suggestion was also made that we distribute copies of the TIA-LI 2008 Annual Report at the Luncheon to help guests better understand what TIA-LI does.

**Hate Crimes:** Mark noted that the Southern Poverty Law Center reported that hate group membership is up 40%, and that immigrants are a frequent target of these groups. He also noted that opposition to gay rights is highly organized and working hard against gay rights legislation

**Long Island Alliance for Peaceful Alternatives:** Marty announced that Sr. Mary Beth Moore has joined the LI Alliance for Peaceful Alternatives as Co-Director. Many TIA members know Mary Beth through her work for peace and social justice as the former coordinator of Pax Christi Long Island. Megan O'Handley, the previous Co-Director, will continue her work with the Alliance as a Program Associate and Secretary of the Board. To learn more about Mary Beth's background, visit the TIA-LI website at [www.interfaithalliance-li.org](http://www.interfaithalliance-li.org) and scroll down to the link "*New Co-Director for the Long Island Alliance.*"

**Shelter Rock Forum:** Jay Grosmark reported that Beth Cole, daughter of Norma and Harvey Cole, will speak at the Shelter Rock Forum on Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30PM. See below for details on Beth's talk.

**Torture:** Paul noted that the Obama administration has decided not to prosecute anyone at this time but will be closing CIA “Black Sites.” Hank noted that Keith Olbermann of MSNBC was urging viewers to let the White House know opinions on the matter of prosecuting those who authorized torture.

Mark noted that a Red Cross report found that the U.S. did engage in torture. However, the U.S. is not subject to prosecution at the World Court in The Hague as the United States refuses to acknowledge the Court’s jurisdiction.

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard Tibbets

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm: The UUCSR Shelter Rock Forum presents Beth Cole of the U.S. Institute for Peace**, who will give a talk titled: *In the Midst of an Economic Meltdown, Why We Need to Worry About Afghanistan, Haiti and Sudan*. For further information, you may call UUCSR at 516-627-6560 ext. 122 or view the TIA website at [www.interfaithalliance-li.org](http://www.interfaithalliance-li.org) and scroll down to the link *Beth Cole, U.S. Institute of Peace*.

**Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 1:00pm. Clergy Luncheon:** at Veatch House, Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock.  
**RSVP** to Sharyn Esposito at (516) 627-6560, ext. 160.

**Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10:00am Jones Beach, Parking Lot #2:**  
Memorial Commemoration - Pax Christi Long Island invites you to gather with them at Jones Beach for a recitation of the names of those killed in the Iraq war. For details, visit the TIA website at [www.interfaithalliance-li.org](http://www.interfaithalliance-li.org) and scroll down to the link *Memorial Commemoration at Jones Beach*.

### NEXT INTERFAITH ALLIANCE MEETING

The next TIA meeting will be:

**Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm**  
**at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock (UUCSR)**  
48 Shelter Rock Road, Manhasset  
Call (516) 627-6560 for directions to UUCSR, or visit the website [www.uucsr.org](http://www.uucsr.org)