



The Interfaith Alliance
LONG ISLAND CHAPTER
www.interfaithalliance-li.org



Minutes – Meeting of 1/7/2010

Attendance: Mark Lukens, Chair; Hank Arond, Paul Auerbach, Joyce Gorycki, Robert Nuxoll, Elaine Peters, Richard Tibbets, Christina Vaccarino

Mark called the meeting to order at 7:45 pm.

Minutes: Members accepted the December 3rd minutes.

Treasurer's Report: For the period 12/3/09 to 1/7/2010 we had no income and \$31.85 in expenses, leaving us with a balance of \$1,188.08.

Ahsan Khan: Mark asked for a moment of prayer for TIA-LI member Ahsan Khan, who had a stroke and is hospitalized.

Separation Between Church and State: On February 24th, Interfaith Alliance National President Rev. Dr. C. Welton Gaddy will join Rev. Barry Lynn of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State and Dan Mach of the ACLU for a discussion on current Church/State controversies. Andrea Libresco, Hofstra Professor and Board Member of the Nassau County ACLU Chapter will moderate the discussion.
(See “UPCOMING EVENTS” below for Date / Time / Location details.)

Supporting Educational Initiatives in Afghanistan / Pakistan: Paul reported that he and John Tilton discussed ways to support educational initiatives in Afghanistan / Pakistan, including sending financial support to the school building efforts of Greg Mortenson, author of *Three Cups of Tea* and *Stones into Schools*. A suggestion was also made for holding a fund-raiser for this purpose.

Interfaith Resolution to End the War: Members discussed the resolution “A Call to Swiftly End the U.S. War in Afghanistan,” which was drafted by Rabbi Arthur Waskow of the Shalom Center. Following the discussion, members voted unanimously to adopt the resolution.

Sign-on Letter to Clergy and Religious: TIA-LI and the Long Island Alliance for Peaceful Alternatives are discussing a sign-on letter to clergy and religious regarding the war in Afghanistan. The plan is to hold a press conference and public forum on the letter.

Kairos Dinner: Several TIA-LI members attended the Long Island Alliance for Peaceful Alternatives *Kairos Awards Dinner* in December. We were quite pleased to see TIA-LI member Habeeb Ahmed honored along with several other people. Richard passed around

a copy of the Journal for that event, which included our ad congratulating Habeeb. We also received a letter from the Alliance thanking TIA-LI for our support.

National Interfaith Alliance: Although he supports Washington, DC's recent passage of a Marriage Equality Bill, Interfaith Alliance President Rev. Welton Gaddy issued a statement critical of Mayor Adrian Fenty for using a church as the backdrop for signing the bill. You may read Gaddy's comments at the website www.interfaithalliance.org => click on "THE NEWS" at top of webpage, then click on "PRESS RELEASES."

Rev. Gaddy was also critical of Fox newscaster Brit Hume's on-the-air comments urging golfer Tiger Woods to convert from Buddhism to Christianity in order to obtain forgiveness for his recently disclosed marital infidelity. You can view a video about this incident, and Brit Hume's reaction to Rev. Gaddy's criticism of Hume, at www.stateofbelief.com If you do not find the story on the home page, then click on the "SHOW ARCHIVE" link at top of page and view recent episodes.

Taught to Hate: TIA member Jackie Jill-Rito sent email to advise us of a newly released film, *Taught to Hate*, which raises awareness of hate crimes. A local newspaper commented that:

"The movie takes its inspiration from the fatal stabbing of an Ecuadorean immigrant in an alleged bias attack in Patchogue last fall."

The film's producer, James Sotomayor, is willing to present it in schools, universities, religious organizations, and community gatherings.

For further information, visit the website www.taughttohate.com

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Tibbets

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, Feb. 24th, 7:30pm: Separation Between Church & State – Are we making progress? A discussion of current controversies with The Rev. Barry Lynn of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State; The Rev. Dr. C. Welton Gaddy, Interfaith Alliance; Dan Mach, ACLU; moderated by Andrea Libresco, NYCLU & Hofstra

DATE: Wednesday, Feb. 24th, 7:30pm

LOCATION: Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock
48 Shelter Rock Rd. Manhasset

for directions go to www.uucsr.org/find.asp

NEXT INTERFAITH ALLIANCE MEETING

The next TIA meeting will be:

Thursday, February 18, 2010 at 2:00 PM

at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock (UUCSR)

48 Shelter Rock Road, Manhasset → in the Art Gallery

DIRECTIONS to UUCSR: (516) 627-6560 or visit the website www.uucsr.org