



Minutes – Meeting of 5/27/2010

Attendance: Mark Lukens, Chair; Hank Around; Paul Auerbach; Marty Melkonian; Dolores Tibbets; Richard Tibbets.

Mark called the meeting to order at 7:50 pm.

Minutes: Members accepted the April 22nd minutes.

Treasurer's Report: For the period 4/22 to 5/27/2010 we had income of \$440 in membership dues, and there were expenses for banking fees and for a mailing to all members re annual membership renewal. Therefore, our balance as of 5/27/2010 is \$1,552.00

Mosque at Ground Zero: Following press reports of opposition to the building of a mosque / cultural center a few blocks from Ground Zero, Mark signed a letter of support for the building on behalf of TIA-LI. Several members signed a similar letter. The effort to construct the mosque is being led by Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, a well known Muslim leader and author whom we have spoken about at several TIA-LI meetings.

Abraham's Children: At several recent meetings, we've discussed ways to reach out to the Long Island community to promote interfaith understanding. In furtherance of this goal, we had an extended discussion about the documentary *Abraham's Children*, which we are considering purchasing for such outreach. The documentary highlights Muslim-American children from the NY Tri-State area, including the Islamic Center in Westbury. Hameed Ahmed has loaned us a copy of this DVD for previewing at our June 24th TIA-LI meeting.

Parliament of World Religions: Several TIA-LI members and members of the Islamic Center of Long Island met with Imam Abdul Malik Mujahid, Chair of the Parliament of World's Religions. The Parliament states its mission as:

The Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions was created to cultivate harmony among the world's religious and spiritual communities and foster their engagement with the world and its guiding institutions in order to achieve a just, peaceful and sustainable world.

The report on this visit led to further discussion on the need to plan for presentations to the Long Island community regarding interfaith understanding.

Out of Cordoba: We discussed the Youtube video *Out of Cordoba*. This video speaks of 12th century Moorish Spain (Al Andalus), where Muslim Jews and Christians lived together in peace. At that time, two controversial geniuses, Averroes and Maimonides, attempted to balance the often competing demands of reason vs. revelation / faith vs. science, a debate that remains relevant to us today.

Elena Kagan – Supreme Court nominee: Rich spoke about a May 17th conference call hosted by the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism and the United Methodist Church - General

Board of Church and Society. Two speakers provided their thoughts on this nominee and her potential impact on religious liberty issues.

Rev. Lukens BLOG: Mark has posted two new items to his blog regarding Arizona's new law immigration legislation.

Hold Onto Hope: Several TIA-LI members attended a showing of the documentary *Hold Onto Hope*, which tells the story of Immaculee Ilibagiza, a survivor of the 1994 Rwanda genocide. This event was sponsored by "Religions for Peace Long Island," a grassroots program making Long Island women aware of what is happening to women all over the world.

Rethink Afghanistan: Rich reported that he sent a message to the Huntington Cinema advising them that TIA-LI had voted to co-sponsor their showing of the documentary *Rethink Afghanistan*.

Hate Crimes - Albany: A hate crimes bill, A9220A, which would allow the courts to require persons convicted of hate crimes to undergo training or counseling passed the Assembly on 4/21. The bill was sent to the Senate, which amended the bill and returned it to the Assembly on 5/27. The Assembly must now vote on the Senate-passed version of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Tibbets

NEXT INTERFAITH ALLIANCE MEETING:	
Thursday, June 24 th , 2010 at 2:00PM at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock (UUCSR) 48 Shelter Rock Road, Manhasset → in the Social Hall DIRECTIONS to UUCSR: (516) 627-6560 or visit the website www.uucsr.org	
Special Notice	The June 24 th meeting will feature a presentation of extracts from the documentary <i>Abraham's Children</i> , which was discussed at the May meeting (see page 1 of these minutes). We hope that many members who are not able to regularly attend our monthly meetings will make a special effort to attend the June 24th meeting and to participate in our discussion following the presentation as we consider the value of using this DVD to promote interfaith harmony and understanding.

NEW WEBSITE FEATURE
For further details on items discussed at the May 27 th meeting, as well as links to additional information on those topics, visit the website www.interfaithalliance-li.org , scroll to " A NEW FEATURE " and click on the link for the Agenda.