

April 18 Activist Meeting, 10am to 11am at St Andrew's Lutheran Church in Mar Vista - notes by Roger Eaton

We had a good meeting, larger than the last two meetings, with Martha Madison, Daryl Seybold and Mickey Oskey of Westside Progressives, Rev Leland Stewart, Elizabeth Stewart, Madelon Logue and Roger Eaton of Unity-and-Diversity, Shel Plotkin, Bob Furber and Walter McCarron from SCFS, Marguerite Spears, Robert Kalayjian and Randy Ziglar and in attendance. Apologies if I missed someone. Sorry to say, I lost my notes. We had an 8 point agenda and managed to cover it pretty well. From memory, then...

* the elected message to Obama has been sent to the President

This was our second message to Obama, this one written by Carl Farrington of the South Coast Interfaith Council. See below. The meeting liked Carl's message a lot.

* Sunday, June 28th picnic at Mar Vista Park, noon to 4pm co-sponsored by Westside Progressives and Unity-and-Diversity World Council

We will participate and bring in speakers. Perhaps Marcy Winograd. We may need some kind of coordinating meeting for our August event, but Mickey made it clear that the picnic by its nature will be great for networking, not for business. So that coordinating meeting will have to be elsewhere.

* August Event - Hiroshima / Nagasaki Memorial / Sermon Series

We decided to expand the event from August 9th only to the August 6 - Aug 9th period to commemorate both Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The sermon series we will be promoting in the LA area now has the title "Never Again" - this title has been used before in this context. Now that we have expanded the period, we are definitely talking about mosques and synagogues and other houses of worship as well as churches. We have a preliminary flyer, which was distributed already at the large April 19th So Cal Committee for a Parliament of World's Religions in Santa Monica. I am expecting to attend ICUJP Friday morning meeting on May 1 to give a short presentation and distribute the flyer. We thought it made sense to reach out through the interfaith organizations. Bob Kalayjian mentioned that the Long Beach First Congregational Church Rev Jerry Stinson is on the Board of South Coast Interfaith Council and a strong supporter of our outreach.

We will have a commemorative event, perhaps in conjunction with the Japanese-American National Museum Downtown. (I have since been in touch with the Museum - they sometimes do commemorative events and might be open to a joint event downtown with LAANDC, but they do not engage in advocacy, and "Never Again" might not be a good title from their point of view. We need to send a formal proposal.)

* Raising money and activists

We will be putting out an appeal to the participating organizations for a small donation - say \$50. This money will be used to promote the August 6th-9th events. As we reach out to the interfaith community, let's try to engage people to help with our August series.

* Mayors for Peace

Roger reported slow going making contact with LA City Hall. We will persist in the effort. When we get an appointment, Roger and Randy Ziglar will go downtown to City Hall. We will be asking also for the Mayor to Proclaim August 6 - August 9th as commemorative days using Pres. Obama's new declaration of nuclear disar-

mament as a moral priority for America. From Obama's April 5th speech in Prague: "as the only nuclear power to have used a nuclear weapon, the United States has a moral responsibility to act." Bob Kalayjian is going to develop a package that we can use when we approach city halls in our area.

* Seeking the Truth about Hiroshima and Nagasaki

New information has suggested that Japan surrendered not because of the atomic bombings, but because of the Russian breakthrough on the Manchurian front. Our idea is to get an op-ed in the LA Times - suggested authors, David Krieger or Orville Schell. And / or we will connect a UCLA professor that Mickey is acquainted with to an LA times columnist. This new information is on top of the known fact that the United States was aware that Japan was willing to surrender if they could keep their Emperor. In the event, they did keep the Emperor, so the bombings were needless. The point is to rebut the erroneous common claim that the bombings saved hundreds of thousands of lives by saving the necessity of an invasion of Japan.

* IAEA Election Letters

We have two letters about to go out, one to President Obama urging him to back Abdul Minty for IAEA Director General as a signal to the world that he is serious about nuclear disarmament. The second letter is to Abdul Minty urging him to hang in there and letting him know we have written to Pres. Obama.

* Discussion with Shel Plotkin and his two colleagues from Southern California Federation of Scientists (SCFS) about their offer to write a scientific article on one of four topics:

Theory of Deterrence

Disposal of Fissile Material

Monitoring of Disarmament

The Czech / Polish Missile Shield

We left it up to the SCFS themselves to pick their topic. The idea behind the Disposal of Fissile Material is that the volume of all the warheads is only one to two percent of the volume of existing high level waste stored at Hanford, so the warheads could be ground up and mixed with the other waste making them useless as warheads without appreciably increasing the waste level at Hanford. Roger was concerned with using volume as a measure, and with Shel's concurrence will try to make contact with Hanford scientists to make sure this idea is sensible. Since it seems a dramatic, irreversible, plan, we don't want to put the idea forward seriously without double checking. As to the Missile Shield, Shel Plotkin had a pamphlet put out by SCFS in 1987 on Star Wars, which has held up well and which we now have up on our website.

Dear Folks, We had another good call, this time with 8 participants.

Carl Farrington of South Coast Interfaith Council, Social Concerns Committee

Tova Fuller of Student PSR

Mickey Oskey of Westside Progressives

Irving Sarnoff of Friends of the United Nations

Martha Madison of Westside Progressives

Daryl Seybold of Westside Progressives
Rick Wayman of Nuclear Age Peace Foundation
Roger Eaton of the LA Area Nuclear Disarmament Coalition, 310 390 5220

Denise Duffield of PSR-LA and Leland Stewart of UDC have sent their apologies - they meant to be on the call but at the last minute couldn't make it, and we also would have had one or two more if it had not been Passover.

Points from the conference call:

1) We congratulated Carl Farrington on his excellent Message to Obama, which was elected in the online dialog. You can find that letter on our web page at <http://udcworld.org/laandc>. Carl will send the letter to President Obama with a hand written post script noting that our letter was written before his Prague Speech and thanking him for turning American nuclear policy around in that speech.

We thought we should send the letter under an LAANDC letterhead. Carl has made such a letterhead with our name, web page and my name as Coordinator. In the future it would be excellent to have a letterhead put together by a graphics designer with the names of our organizations under the heading "Participating Organizations":

Campaign for a Nuclear Weapons Free World
Friends of the United Nations
Global Voices for Justice
Interfaith Communities United for Justice and Peace
LA Fellowship of Reconciliation
LA Jews for Peace
Muslim Public Affairs Council
Nuclear Age Peace Foundation
Physicians for Social Responsibility - LA
Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Ethics
Southern California Federation of Scientists
South Coast Interfaith Council, Social Concerns Committee
Student Physicians for Social Responsibility
Unity-and-Diversity World Council
USC College Democrats
Westside Progressives

We need to do an opt-in on this letterhead, so please consider whether it is OK for your organization to be listed. So far I have a positive OK only from the So Cal Federation of Scientists (SCFS). SCFS, btw, has offered to write a thoroughly researched paper on a topic of our choice. We have 4 ideas: a) Theory of nuclear deterrence; b) disposal of fissile material; c) the capabilities needed to monitor disarmament; d) the science of missile shields. Which of these sounds best? Does anyone have other possibilities?

2) Next up, we discussed President Obama's speech - How can we best build on this welcome turnabout in American nuclear policy? The Friends Committee on National Legislation at fcnl.org and Cara of nuclearweaponsfree.org and Fcnl.org, are both saying we need to write to Congress to get behind this change. Please click in and add your voice. The speech puts some wind in our sails, so this is the time to put out a notice about the LAANDC in an email to all the memberships and in all the available lists, such as Frank Dorrel's list. Mickey Oskey and Roger Eaton will develop the notice and then send it out for further distribution.

3) The Coalition had a table at the Helen Caldicott reception in Brentwood, Sunday April 5th. A lovely day.

Good hard hitting speech by Helen Caldicott. We need to move without delay on all things nuclear. Several participants in the Coalition got to meet each other for the first time. Altogether it was very positive experience and we did get a few signups for the dialog.

4) Raising money for the Coalition. Should we set up a bank account? This discussion got involved with the larger questions that were raised by the grant proposal discussion - see below. Should we set up as a non-profit? It takes a while to get the paperwork through. Should we go through an umbrella? The Tides Foundation was suggested. Community-Partners here in Los Angeles at 1000 N Alameda St # 240, Los Angeles, CA 90012, (213) 346-3200 has planning workshops and incubator services and can serve as a fiscal sponsor. This may be the way to go. Should we go through one of our existing organizations? Again, Mickey Oskey and Roger Eaton will think this through and come up with a coherent proposal for the Coalition.

5) Our Activists Group has rescheduled the August 6th event for Sunday August 9, Nagasaki Day. We are thinking to promote a wave of Sermons around the city. The conference call OK'd the switch to Nagasaki Day. We need to recruit the Interfaith organizations to help put out the word for August 6-9th. Beyond the sermons, what should the event be?

Tova had several good suggestions:

- * Sunday Aug 9th Farmers Market tabling - there are 21 such markets on Sundays around the city.
- * Candlelight meeting with Shigeko Sasamori, an LA area hibakushu, or survivor of the Hiroshima/Nagasaki bombing
- * Have the Mayor of Los Angeles proclaim Aug 9th Nuclear Disarmament Day.

6) Seeking the truth about Hiroshima and Nagasaki - How it may well be that Japan surrendered unconditionally not because of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but instead to head off a possible Soviet invasion. Our Activists have a plan to promote an article in the LA Times for Sunday Aug 9. The conference call participants thought we should bring in David Krieger and / or Orville Schell for an op-ed piece on this subject timed for August 9th.

7) On the subject of going for a grant, the participants in the call thought the draft Letter of Inquiry needed work. Also, we need to decide if we want to form a 501(c)(3) ourselves or go through one of our participating organizations. The idea of promoting LA area participation in Mayors for Peace, as suggested in the draft LOI seemed good, and might still be the basis for a grant proposal. Rick Wayman will be in touch with the MfP leadership at the May NPT PrepCom meeting, and will bring up with them our idea of MfP possibly using our dialog software to elect a message from the world to the important 2010 meetings coming up: NPT Conference and Obama's newly announced. Again, Mickey and Roger will work on coming up with something more coherent for presentation at the next conference call.

8) Finally, there was a discussion about outreach to high schools and colleges. Tova will work on this at the college level and indeed already she has brought in USC College Democrats to the Coalition.

Let's make it happen!

-- Roger Eaton
LAANDC Coordinator

April 6 Message Elected in the Online Dialog written by Carl Farrington of the South Coast Interfaith Council, Social Concerns Committee. There has been no response yet to our previous message to Obama, but we will send this one, too, and if we get something back, will publish it. Dear President Obama:

The Los Angeles Area Nuclear Disarmament Coalition urges you to lead the United States in working for mutual understanding, cooperation and peace among the nations and peoples of the world. We suggest that this effort proceed on three fronts:

Cooperation and openness in dealing with the economic crisis - with a sharing of data, plans and forecasts, a forgoing of isolationist and narrowly self-interested policies, and restraint in passing on financial hardship to those already impoverished

A vigorous and sustained effort to find and implement effective means of aiding very poor countries including those that are not, in fact, "developing?"

A persistent effort to achieve a nuclear free world - with the U.S. and Russia agreeing to stop producing nuclear weapons and to dismantle most of those that now exist, eventually leading to the securing, control and elimination of all nuclear weapons

Although the first and second of these are essential in the short term for averting the most immediate kinds of catastrophe, a genuine and persistent effort on our part to do away with our nuclear weapons along with everyone else's would go a very long way toward creating mutual trust and a forsaking of violence.