



# Cambridge Peace Commission

---

## Cambridge Peace Commission Meeting Notes

Wednesday, April 14, 2010 • 6:00-8:00

51 Inman St., second floor

### Minutes

**Attending:** Chandra Banks, Manikka Bowman, Karen Coleman, Frank Connelly, Leigh Hardy, Grove Harris (via Skype), Larry Kim, Mushtaque Mirza,

**Staff:** Brian Corr

### Opening, Note-taker, and Check-in

---

- **Check-in:** Participants introduced themselves and Larry and Frank volunteered to be note-takers.

### Upcoming Meetings and Events:

---

#### ***2010 Peace and Justice Awards: Sunday, May 23***

The Cambridge Peace Commission will hold the 12th Cambridge Peace and Justice Awards on Sunday, May 23, from 4:00 to 7:00 PM at the West Cambridge Youth Center, 680 Huron Ave., Cambridge.

There were more than two dozen nominations this year. Brian shared that he would like there to be fewer recipients if than in previous years (i.e., five to six individuals and a couple of groups) in order to make it more meaningful for the recipients and more manageable as an event. When there were 16 individuals, 10 groups, and 5 posthumous awards in 2006, it did not seem particularly significant or much of an honor for many of the recipients.

It was asked what the parameters for the awards are and Brian responded that the parameters are relatively broad and inclusive. The individual or group must live or or work in Cambridge, and this year's theme is "Peacemaking in a Time of Hope and Change." Therefore, the request for nominations asked for people of all ages who have worked for peace and social justice in a variety of ways and on a range of issues – from the very local to the global. Nominees may work for peace in families, schools, congregations, and neighborhoods, or can be working across the U.S. or internationally. The Peace Commission encouraged the nominations of people or programs that build bridges and those who stand for peace and justice initiatives particularly in these times of conflict, war, and divisions – whether to lifelong peace and justice makers, or to those among us whose daily lives may be inspirations to our community.

This year there were number of nominations that did not include the requested information:

- the name of the person or group;
- a few sentences about why you are nominating the person or group; and
- an email address and a phone number for the nominator.

A proposal was made to only consider the nominations which included the requested information, as it would be difficult to make a decision about people who did not have a writeup. It was also suggested that a point person be nominated to accumulate potential nominations throughout the year. Chandra volunteered to be that person.

Brian reported that Jose Aleman, the recently appointed Consul General of El Salvador in New England, had agreed to be the main speaker and that Gifrants, a Haitian musician, would perform.

Individual awards will be given to:

- \* Sarav Chidambaram: Cambridge GLBT Commission
- \* Principal Tim Groves: King Open School
- \* Leigh Hardy: Cambridge/El Salvador Sister City Project
- \* Rawhl Adams: Cambridge High School Extension Program
- \* Judy King: Nonviolent Peaceforce and WAND
- \* Arpi Kouzouian: Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston

Group awards will be given to:

- \* Cambridge Cares About AIDS
- \* Area IV for Peace

### **2010 Holocaust Commemoration**

The Peace Commission has been working to organize the Holocaust Commemoration, and a volunteer committee has been working very hard on this year's commemoration – the city's 21st. The committee includes representatives from the City of Cambridge Law Department, Disabilities Commission, Human Rights Commission, Dept. of Human Services Community Schools, the Office of the Mayor, the Office of the City Manager, Congregation Eitz Chayim, Cambridge Employees' Committee on Diversity, Cambridge Public Library, and the Cambridge Public Schools.

Recalling all who perished during the Holocaust, this year's program will be on Tuesday, May 4 at Temple Beth Shalom from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. It features an evening of music, candle lighting, and remembrance. The guest speaker is Ingrid Kisliuk, who was eight years old in 1938 when her family was forced to flee Vienna, Austria for exile in Belgium, and then went into hiding in Brussels during the German occupation. She is the author of *Unveiled Shadows: The Witness of a Child* and *From Trauma to Trepidation: Memories Transmitted by Hidden Children to the Second Generation*.

Music will be provided by A Besere Velt (A Better World: the Yiddish Community Chorus of the Boston Circle), the Cambridge Community Chorus, and by the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School String Ensemble and the CRLS Chorus. The program is free, open to all, and wheelchair accessible. It welcomes all communities of Cambridge – including children and adults and people of all faiths and traditions.

### ***Visit of Hibakusha (Atomic Bomb Survivors from Japan)***

As part of Japanese delegation of 50 Hibakusha (witnesses and survivors of the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki) and other Japanese peace activists coming to Boston, four members of the delegation will speak about their experiences and their work at the Cambridge Public Library to an audience of Cambridge high school students and members of the public.

Mr. Kunihiko Sakuma, who was a child when the bomb was dropped, and Mr. Shinichi Onaka, second generation of Hibakusha, and two leading Japanese peace activists speak about their experiences, including why they have come to the United States.

2,000 Japanese peace activists are at the United Nations in New York to advocate for complete implementation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, with the goal of the nuclear powers to negotiate a treaty eliminating their nuclear weapons and end the spread of nuclear weapons to non-nuclear nations. This delegation includes approximately 100 Hibakusha (the largest delegation of “A-Bomb Survivors” ever to come to the U.S.) Their average age is 78, which means this is the last time such a visit can take place. Hundreds of these Japanese activists will travel to a number of U.S. cities, among them Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, Washington, D.C., and Las Vegas (near the Nevada Nuclear Test Site, which they will visit.) The delegation is being brought to Boston by the American Friends Service Committee.

### ***2009-2010 Peace and Justice Awards***

- Sunday, May 23, 2010 from 4:00 to 7:00 PM
- Possibly at the West Cambridge Youth Center
- Brian’s vision would be to make it somewhat smaller than past years—offering maybe 5 awards
- Question re: the types of organizations
- Frank, Leigh, Chandra, Larry, and Rosalie volunteered to be on working group for it.

### **Updates and Reports**

---

#### ***Book Event with David Wylie***

On April 7, the Peace Commission organized and hosted a forum, book signing, and reception with long-time Cambridge City Councilor and School Committee Member David Wylie about his latest book, *City, Save Thyself!* More than twenty people came to hear David’s advice about how to deal with the continuing threat of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, based on his decades of advocacy, research, and government service:

#### ***Summer of Peace 2010***

The kick-off meeting for the 2010 Summer of Peace Initiative took place last Wednesday. The group included representatives from City youth centers, the Cambridge Public Schools, a number of churches, the Cambridge Police Department, Phillips Brooks House Association, the Cambridge Arts Council, the Office of the Mayor, and the Cambridge Public Health Department. The meeting was an opportunity for people from a range of city departments, the schools, organizations, and community people to discuss what everyone will be doing this summer. It

was very helpful for the Peace Commission examine its role this summer supporting work around the issues of young people and violence and/or turf issues, and ensuring that we do have a peaceful summer for our young people. Discussion about different areas of the city. The group discussed the very successful work in Area IV to build community and reduce violence and how it might serve as a model for other neighborhoods. The group also discussed the challenges facing North Cambridge, and that that latter neighborhood may be an important place to support Summer of Peace efforts.

## **Closing**

---