



# Cambridge Peace Commission

*A department of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts*

## Cambridge Peace Commission Meeting

Wednesday, December 15, 2010 • 6:00 p.m.

### Notes

**Attending:** Karen Coleman, Grove Harris, Brian Loeb, Jess Weaver, Rosalie Rippey

**Staff:** Brian Corr

### Annual Martin Luther King Day Commemoration

- Scheduled for January 17, 11:30 to 1:30
- Brian raised the elements that need further input:
  - Should there be a vigil beforehand to remember and support the people of Haiti?
  - Group of women in Cambridge are organizing a “day of service” for that day at the YWCA from 2-5 p.m. What is the best way to connect the two while maintaining the spirit of the Peace Commission event?
- Location at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church is still being confirmed.
- Peace Commission members are invited to be among the readers of quotes from Dr. King during the commemoration.
- Rev. Steven Neville will be speaking about connecting the “giant triplets of racism, militarism, and extreme materialism” that Dr. King talked about with interrupting cycles of youth violence.
- As this will be just after the anniversary of the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, there will be connections with: militarism in terms of how Haiti was formed and has been invaded and ruled; materialism in terms of poverty and the global economy; and racism and how Haiti is treated today, and has historically been treated.
- Needs: help setting up, staffing the door, and cleaning up at the end; will need commitments for readers.

### Following up on “Moving Cambridge Forward” Initiative

- Brian shared a Draft Description and Principles for Cambridge Citywide Civic Unity Councils
- A collaborative effort being planned by City Councilor Denise Simmons; Marian Darlington-Hope of Lesley University; Eva Martin Blythe, Director of the YWCA Cambridge, and the Peace Commission -- to call civic organizations, neighborhood organizations to begin work within a Unity Council framework to make connections across typical dividing lines -- to reduce inequality, social, and regional discrimination.

### **Haiti Efforts**

- Brian has also been working with Alexander Levering Kern of Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries on building a “Haiti Interfaith Action Network”
- To be careful and thoughtful about what it would mean to have a sister city relationship, Brian has been doing research and laying groundwork in developing a meaningful and realistic sister city project -- with its own fundraising and an active committee. He has been working with Cambridge Public Health Officer Claude Jacob to hone a purposeful sister city relationship. The hope is that this will be announced by the first anniversary of the earthquake
- Looking for congregations and organizations to sign on to the "Call for a Month of Remembrance and Rededication to Haiti."

### **Members Sought for Peace Commission**

- The City Manager will be accepting applications for Peace Commission membership.
- There was a brief discussion of what would be most helpful in Peace Commission members.

### **Other Upcoming Events, Activities and Programs**

- April 29 event(s) for Civic Unity Councils and Stand Against Racism
- 2011 Citywide Holocaust Commemoration: first half of May
- 2011 Peace & Justice Awards in the late Spring
- Having a Peace Commission presence at: the 2011 River Festival? Dance for World Community (Jose Mateo Ballet Theater)?

### **Next Meeting**

- Wednesday, January 19, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Notes recorded by Rosalie Rippey