

ZOOM MEETING MINUTES for the Buddhist Peace Fellowship Chicago Chapter

Thursday, April 28, 2022

Present: Barbara, Taigen, Jack, Alex, Charles, Kevin

Facilitated by Jack, minutes by Kevin

Chicago Area Peace Action (CAPA) Zoom Program:

Charles and Jack attended a Loyola-based (?) 2-day Zoom program with 70-80 students present, about limiting nuclear arms, no first strike, (Back from the Brink) and other topics. The original plan to do a demonstration or action at the Univ of Chicago (with the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists?) has been postponed; it will possibly turn into a nationwide action in the Fall. They are staying in touch with David B. For the latest, check out <www.chipeaceaction.org>.

Ukraine Invasion Issues:

We discuss broader nuclear issues and the current situation with the Russian invasion of Ukraine; in some ways the situation complicates the nuclear issue (tactical nuclear weapon threats from Russia, Ukraine's nuclear power facilities, etc). Jack notes that Ted Lieu's HB669 bill could be modified to include tactical nuclear weapons; the main idea of the bill is to make it so that Presidents can't engage in first strikes without the consent of Congress. Taigen notes that the Buddhist community should keep bringing up the issues, and emphasize the restraint aspect.

Ukrainian Refugee Assistance:

See Jack's prior email about The Village Zendo and refugee resettlement in the New York area; they are close to qualifying for sponsoring one family. Jack assisted in raising funds for this. Jack notes that there's no Russian consulate in Chicago, but there's a Ukrainian one. Doctors W/O Borders is now working in both Bangladesh (Rohingya refugees) and in Ukraine. Taigen says that Alan Senauke is working with the Ukrainian situation, too. Charles will contact a lawyer from DePaul, who may know about something particular we can get involved with.

Hiroshima Day Planning (Saturday August 6th):

It's good to start "planting seeds" about this today, and we need to come up with a plan. Should this be done in person, and in Hyde Park (Moore Sculpture) or downtown, or both? We need to contact Sue Ellen soon, so she can be more involved from the beginning; her student provided a great presence last time. This will be in conjunction with CAPA, as well. Jack will check in with her; Taigen will contact faculty about use of the Moore plaza; Charles will contact speaker Yuki.

Possible New Programs:

- Possible program about the new blooming of hate speech (and its normalization).
- Possible program "A Buddhist Response to Genocide."

Upcoming Events:

- <https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/june-18-2022/>

NEXT ZOOM MEETING:

4th Thursday, May 26, 2022: 7:30pm; reminder and link to be emailed.

Email: bpfchicago@yahoo.com

Website: <http://www.bpfchicago.org>