

ZOOM MEETING MINUTES for the Buddhist Peace Fellowship Chicago Chapter

Thursday, May 21, 2021

Present: Jack, Taigen, Dean, Kevin

Facilitated by Dean, minutes by Kevin

BPF Chicago Member Bill DeRonne Has Passed Away:

Dean noticed in the Chicago Tribune, that our former member and friend Bill DeRonne had passed away. Here is his funeral home obituary. <<https://www.elmhurstfh.com/obituaries/William-DeRonne?obId=21138622>>

William A. DeRonne, 75, died May 17 in Elmhurst. Bill is survived by his wife of 50 years, Susan, his three children, Kevin (Beth), Jane (Florian Sichling) and Paul DeRonne, as well as his 3 grandchildren, Willem, Hans, and Madeline. Bill was born on March 30, 1946 to Alfred and Euphrasia (Nolan) DeRonne in Detroit, Michigan and grew up in and around DeRonne hardware stores with his siblings, the late Patrecia (John) McCleary, the late James (Katherine) DeRonne, and Paul (Lorrie) DeRonne. He is remembered fondly by his many nieces and nephews.

Bill's life was a journey of joy and exploration. As a young man he entered the Augustinian novitiate before leaving to study math at IIT, where he met Susan, the love of his life. They married on May 29, 1971, and in 1976 he received his doctorate in Philosophy from DePaul University. He began working in the financial markets and found success over more than 40 years before ending his career as the Executive Director of the Masters Degree in Financial Mathematics at the University of Chicago. Throughout his decades of commitment in his career, he told anyone who would listen - especially his children - that his job wasn't as important to him as his family. His greatest joy was spending time with them and his extended family, in which he included his friends and his kids' friends.

Bill was active throughout his life; he was an avid runner and biker and enjoyed playing hockey into his 40s. His interests were eclectic and extensive: poetry, cars, writing daily letters (on paper) to his kids, traveling, deer hunting, playing bridge, and reviving near-dead houseplants. A lifelong learner, he studied Buddhism and developed a meditation practice that embodied his dedication to enjoying the present and living life to the fullest. He also studied ecology and native plants and spent countless hours in the woods of southwestern Wisconsin, where he and Susan bought a cabin - the Farm - where he worked for decades to restore a native prairie and oak savanna. He was committed to giving back to his community, and once retired he volunteered as a tutor in the city, as a peace recruiter in local high schools, and at Northern Illinois Food Bank.

Throughout Bill's struggle with dementia, he remained a kind, loving, and generous man with a quick smile, a light heart, and a mischievous sense of humor. He is greatly missed but lives on in all of those whose lives he touched.

Visitation is 4-8 PM on Friday, May 21, 2021 and services are 10 AM Saturday, May 22, 2021, both at Elmhurst Community Funeral Home, Ahlgrim Chapel. In lieu of flowers, make a donation in Bill's name to Northern Illinois Food Bank, Kevala Retreat, or Alzheimer's Association.

Jack's Rohingya Refugee Child Education Letters:

Jack asks for comments and suggestions regarding the 3 letter drafts he sent to the core group. We all give feedback and ask questions. The letters will be shaped and modified for different audiences. Taigen asks for a letter that groups can sign onto (endorse). Dean suggests contacting Nicholas Kristof from the NYT (or perhaps Malik can contact him?). Also Malik's essay from last month, can possibly be attached to letters, as a resource. Taigen suggests having an intro to the subject (perhaps in an email message with a letter attached), outlining the historic importance of community cooperation between Buddhists and Muslims, through different eras and geographic locations.

Formation of BAC Chicago:

We discuss the very recent formation of a Buddhist Action Coalition (BAC) Chicago chapter, by Meredith Mays Espino. Oche and Kevin are establishing contact, and BAC Chicago has several actions coming up. There are 13 members so far (on Meetup and Facebook). Also we agree to re-visit our possible alliance with BAC New York, as well as a possible name change or the addition of a sub-header, at our next meeting.

Things To Do:

- Dean will mail one T-shirt to Jack and one to Taigen; all other T-shirts will be donated to a worthy org.
- Kevin will contact BAC Chicago again, and send out notices of their events, to the BPF Google Group.

Upcoming Events / Announcements / News Items:

- Juan Pablo Restrepo from Patagonia speaks on zoom with ADZG on Sunday morning June 6th.
- Hozan Alan Senauke speaks on zoom w ADZG, "Sangha and Beloved Community," Sunday morn June 13th.

NEXT ZOOM MEETING:

Third Thursday, June 17, 2021: 7:30pm; reminder and zoom link to be emailed.

Email: bpfchicago@yahoo.com

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