

MONMOUTH COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Monday, June 3, 2013 7:00-9:00PM

Monmouth Chinese Christian Church

189 Holland Rd., Middletown, NJ 07748

Attendance: John Delaney, Fatima Jaffari, Rosa Lee, Ted Lee, Angel Quiles, Charanjit Sawhney, Inderjit Sawhney, Carolyn Schwebel, John Schwebel, Philip Smith, John Sorrentino, Daniel Weiss, Robert Williams, Linda Zucaro. **Guests:** Nina Anderson, Seuda Aptinar, Ali Chaudry, Cary Eastman, Mariam Eastman, M. Eastman, Birsu Goktan, Sarbmeet Kanwal, Joe Ritacco, Hasan Rizvi, Zehra Rizvi, Stanley Rosenthal, Nuray Yurt, Moustafa Zayed

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM. The Salute to the Flag followed.

The minutes of the April 8 Full Commission meeting were approved with one change regarding the progress on Part II of the Law Enforcement and Disabilities workshop to be held this fall.

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$2000, with several invoices pending.

Under Membership, the members voted to approve Danny Weiss as a member, representing the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered community. We anticipate two more prospective members for the July Executive meeting. One was present and introduced – Nina Anderson from Monmouth University.

Communications is working on getting new logo stickers.

There were no reports from Incident Response and Reporting or Resource Development.

John Sorrentino announced that there will be a meeting on June 14 on Part II of the Law Enforcement and Disabilities workshop.

Under new business, elections were held for the 2013 -14 terms. Following a call for nominations from the floor, the following were elected:

Darryl Hughes – Chair

John Sorrentino – Vice-Chair

Sherri West – Secretary

Sondra Cannon – Treasurer

Angel Quiles explained that we have adopted the theme of returning veterans, their spouses and military families for our project going forward in 2013 – 14. The exact nature of the project – including its format and goals – is yet to be determined. This will be a major part of the Executive Committee meeting in July and all with a particular interest in shaping this project are urged to attend. That meeting will be held on July 1 beginning at 3:30 PM at the Ag Building in Freehold.

The next Full Commission meeting will be on August 5 at the Ag Building.

Following adjournment of the regular meeting, the approximately 50 members and guests assembled, enjoyed a panel discussion, “Mainstream Muslims and the Response to Radicalism/Extremism,” coordinated and moderated by Fatima Jaffari.(program attached)

Submitted by Linda Zucaro, Acting Secretary

Monmouth County Human Relations Commission

June 3, 2013

"Mainstream Muslims and the Response to Radicalism/Extremism"

a panel discussion moderated by Fatima Jaffari, MCHRC

Nuray Yurt, Ph.D.

Dr. Yurt is the Director of Peace Islands Institute (PII) formerly known as Interfaith Dialogue Center in Central Jersey since 2005. As the director of PII, she organized several interfaith and intercultural activities. She plays an active role in organizing Abraham's Table Luncheons, the venues where speakers from Abrahamic religions discuss and find the commonalities. She is actively involved in fundraising activities for Soup Kitchen of Elijah's Promise where the homeless are served food and a member of New Brunswick Tomorrow. She is currently Business Insights Lead for Novartis Pharmaceuticals. Dr. Yurt has Ph.D in economics. She studied the effects of social ability on life time earnings at University of Arizona and taught several courses in this subject. Dr. Yurt received several scholarships including George W. Coleman Scholarship at University of Arizona and National Academy of Sciences and Technology of Turkey (TUBITAK) Fellowship award.

M.Ali Chaudry, Ph.D.

Dr. Chaudry grew up in Pakistan. He graduated from the London School of Economics in 1967 and earned a Ph. D. in Economics from Tufts University (1972). He worked at AT&T from 1968 to 1998, serving as CFO of its Public Relations Division. Dr. Chaudry is a Lecturer at Rutgers University teaching business courses on leadership, multinational business management, applied business statistics and business policy.

He co-founded the Center for Understanding Islam immediately after 9/11/2001 with a view to present a moderate and enlightened understanding of Islam. Over the last decade, Dr. Chaudry has been engaged in a continuous series of lectures on Islam at various groups that have interest in expanding their knowledge about Islam and Muslims. He has co-authored a college level textbook on *Islam & Muslims* with Dr. Robert Crane (Special edition 2010; Full edition expected in 2013).

Appointed by Governor Chris Christie to the New Jersey Commission on National and Community Service (2013 - 2016) Mayor of Barnards Township (2004-2007), two-terms, committee member since 2002. Elected to the Barnards Township Board of Education (1990 to 1995) in Basking Ridge, NJ

Saiyid Hasan Rizvi

BA in Political Science -Rutgers College in 2007

While in college, he focused his studies on politics and religion in the Middle East and the Islamic World. He studied classes such as Islamic Jurisprudence, Arab-Israeli Conflict, Democracy & Reform in Post-Revolutionary Iran, American Foreign Policy, Terrorism in International Relations, Israeli Politics, and Islam/Democracy/Violence in the Islamic World

Graduate of the Imam Ali (as) Seminary in Sanford, FL - 2010-2012. He regularly engages in peaceful, civil dialogue to better understand each others' faiths. He has presented at high schools, colleges, & various centers throughout the USA for the past 3yrs.

Moustafa Zayed, Imam

He has a degree in communication systems engineering. He speaks widely in interfaith settings with devotion to bridging peace between communities. Zayed is the author of "Muhammad Said", "Journey of All Times", the well-known reference book, "The Lies about Muhammad: How You Were Deceived Into Islamophobia, and the just released book "the prophecies of Muhammad" . He is also a leading teacher in several mosques in USA's north east. Zayed is well-known internationally as a debater and lecturer against Islamophobia . He is also known for his lectures about the principles of Islamic economics, Islamic Sharia's social justice, applications, and renaissance.

Resources:

"Online Radicalization and Violent Extremism"

Homeland Security and Islamic advocacy group officials talked about "online radicalization." The term refers to the opportunity the Internet provides violent extremists to appeal online to individuals or groups who are vulnerable or sympathetic to their message. The Boston Marathon bombings and the May 22 murder of a British soldier were referenced multiple times throughout the discussion. Peter Neumann in his remarks said the web had changed the way people, especially in the West, embraced violent extremism, and that the "lone-wolf phenomenon" and online radicalization were therefore linked. Following their discussion, panelists answered questions from the audience.

Source: C-Span video library, May 28, 2013 sponsored by New America Foundation

"I'm Muslim, and I Hate Terrorism"

Source: cnn.com April 24, 2013 by Dean Obeidallah, *a former attorney, is a political comedian and frequent commentator on various TV networks including CNN*

"An Enemy No Bigger than We Are"

Source: Huffington Post April 21, 2013 by Sami Elmansoury in response to Boston bombings.

"The Dangerous U.S. Double Standard on Islamic Extremism"

Source: Foreign Policy foreignpolicy.com September 17, 2012 by *Justin Gengler, Ph.D. in political science University of Michigan*

"Secretary Kerry Must Stop U.S. Support for Islamic Extremism"

Source: Huffington Post March 18, 2012 by *Azeem Ibrahim, Ph.D Executive Chairman of the Scotland Institute and a former International Research Scholar at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard and a World Fellow at Yale.*

The Triangle Center on Terrorism and Homeland Security

The Triangle Center on Terrorism and Homeland Security (TCTHS) is a collaborative effort between Duke University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and RTI International to enhance the understanding of terrorism and the means to combat it through education, research and the development of partnerships between universities, industry and government. Founded in 2005, TCTHS provides a forum for the exchange of views, information, and expertise between a broad cross section of the Triangle community -- students, faculty, researchers, government officials, first responders, and interested members of the public. In pursuing these goals, the Triangle Center draws on the wide array of scholars, researchers, and experts from the three sponsor institutions who are engaged in work ranging from basic research to the execution of governmentfunded projects.

Peace Islands Institute <http://www.peaceislands.org/>

The Lies About Muhammad, How You were Deceived into Islamophobia by Moustafa Zayed

<http://theliesaboztinnhammad.com/>

Treatise on Rights (Risalatul Huquq)

by Imam Zainul Abideen, Ali ibn al Husayn, great grandson of the Prophet Muhammad <http://www.al-islam.org/sahifa/treatise.html>