Roots of Peacebuilding in the 1980s

An Evening of Dining and Dialogue
To Re-awaken The Importance Citizen-to-Citizen Relationship-Building
In This New Moment of Russian-American Need

A Kafenia Cafe Circle
Wednesday, 18 April 2018
6:00-9:00pm - 654 Gilman, Palo Alto, California USA

CONTEXT

Evening organizer, Mary Jane Marcus, was a student in the Interact Club at Gunn High School, Palo Alto – age 16 years when travelling with other inspired citizen-diplomats to the Soviet Union in 1985. Over 30 years later in Spring 2018, she reflected: “I realized that I never really knew much about the people who birthed the local peacebuilding community, especially the Palo Alto-based Beyond War Movement, that shaped my adolescence. So here is a chance to invite interested neighbors to meet some of those elders while including new friends who lived behind the Iron Curtain during that Cold War.”

THE INVITATION

The announcement described the evening’s ethnic meal to include Greek hostess’s stuffed peppers, beet tzatziki, Greek Pontian piroshis – all beyond delicious – noting that “Pontians live(d) on the Black Sea and 50,000 Greeks are still in former Russian republics.” Invitees also could familiarized themselves with the Beyond War Movement -- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beyond_War
EVENING FLOW (facilitated by Mary Jane Marcus and Len Traubman)

6:00-6:50 pm -- Arrive, mix and mingle, view artifacts of 1980s citizen diplomacy, delicious ethnic food
6:55-7:05 – Gather in circle, Welcome, Musical Ice Breaker
7:05-7:20 – Personal Introductions - Who is in the room (“In one breath: Please say your name and why you chose to be here and not somewhere else this evening.)
7:20-7:40 -- Stories of Change Agents (Four 5-min stories from Russian immigrants and from American bridge builders of the 1980s)
7:40-7:55 -- Dyads -- “What touched you, had meaning for you? What new did you begin to think about for your life, for our times?”
7:55-8:40 -- Large Circle Assimilation of Dyad Experiences and Insights
8:40 9:00 -- Closing Wishes and Intentions (arm-in-arm, in large circle)

The highly participatory, interactive circle included 30 deeply-interested participants -- cross generational, multi-ethnic, interreligious women and men exploring how to once again build international bridges to Russian citizens.

ETHNIC FOOD AND EXHIBITS
Kids’ preoccupation spawns education for nuclear age

"We don’t advocate teaching this way or that way, this view or that view, but a balance of many points of view."
— Jim Unschuld, Educators for Social Responsibility

BREAKTHROUGH
Emerging New Thinking
Soviet and Western Scholars Issue a Challenge to Build a World Beyond War

ПРОРЫВ
Современные Идеи
Взаимодействие между Советским Союзом и США

СССР-США: большой надежды маленький оркестр

PEACE МИР

BERING BRIDGE EXPEDITION

Собеседник
23'90
From this April 18, 2018 evening, Mary Jane Marcus transcribed some spoken phrases of the Kafenia Café Circle participants expressed after hearing about USA-Soviet Union citizen initiatives in the 1980s. She thanked those who led work then and now: Len Traubman, Wileta Burch, Anya Kucherav, Mark Graham, Barbara & Kevin O’Reilly, Kate Brophy, Coach Peters.

What The People Said
Poetically compiled by Mary Jane Marcus, the evening organizer

We lived parallel lives
Forced me out of
My comfort zone
A shift
Communicating heart to heart
A roller coaster ride
What allows us to reclaim our humanity?

We all have an aperture that can open
We are meant for more than this

What makes us whole is this?
We were extremely different
But each escaped persecution
We lack communication and connection

Why did we have this civil war?
We can remove this mask on my face
Shia Sunni Christian

We are to be with you
Seeing an example of how people are divided artificially

What is that? A pinko commie
There was a Cold War that was invented

Think about the head Job
Really astonishing

It’s so important to learn more languages

What is our religion?
Kindness

From darkness to light
Was electricity too expensive?

I was there 5 times Doha
Aren’t you a feminist?
So surprising

Citizen diplomacy
This is what it is

I want to believe you
She didn’t want me back?

How difficult it is to just listen
The principal didn’t get his assignment

We have a split within
Poisoning of the commons
There’s a lot of things we could do and we are here tonight

What can we do?
It’s amazing to take in

I’ve been craving this
Humanistic vision getting us
It's been decades  
A dream comes true
It's time to be doers  
It's been so long  
Laughing together

I want people to realize
Can we move on from the Soviet Union thing?

How can I make it better now?
My brain is very old

Last words
Know about some history here
Like the goals

That gives me hope
In tears
The nerve
Bringing color will bring happiness

They lost everything
But they give everything
Better to be a child in a refugee camp than here in Palo Alto

We lost the ability to share to be together to touch

Just the connections
Sharing giving a lot

**Beyond War Principles**

War is obsolete.
We are one on this planet.
The means are the ends in the making.

**Beyond War Agreements**

I will resolve conflict without violence.
I will have a spirit of goodwill.
I will not preoccupy myself with an enemy.
I will work together with others to build a world beyond war.
Mary Jane Marcus, evening initiator and co-facilitator, receives e-mail at MaryJane.Marcus@gmail.com

Len Traubman, evening co-facilitator, welcomes further communication about actively initiating new US-Russia citizen-to-citizen relationships. He can be reached at LTraubman@igc.org or (650 574-8303, and Len and Libby's family site is at http://traubman.igc.org. Conversations via Zoom would be at https://zoom.us/j/5126812154 to join meeting #5126812154

RESOURCES relevant to Cafe Kafenia's "Roots of Peacebuilding in the 1980s" include:

Context of Beyond War (top of page) -- https://traubman.igc.org/global.htm
Russian Phrases for Amateur Radio -- https://traubman.igc.org/russian.htm
Amateur (Ham) Radio -- https://traubman.igc.org/hamradio.pdf
Dialogue Communication (graphics) -- https://traubman.igc.org/dialoguecommunication.htm
Human Successes in Relationship Building (e-mail circle) -- https://traubman.igc.org/messages.htm

This document is preserved on the Web at http://traubman.igc.org/peacebuilding1980s.pdf