

**P.E.A.C.E. Birmingham Handbook**  
**People Engaged in A Cultural Exchange**

August, 2007

**A program of Temple Emanu-El and the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute**  
**Since January 1996 a dialogue between African and Jewish teens**

**Beginning Fall 2007 opened to include a greater diversity**

**What is P.E.A.C.E? Birmingham?**

A monthly dialogue where teens from different cultures and faiths to learn about each other. Our program provides a safe, welcoming, open environment in which to express our feelings about stereotypes and prejudice.

**When do you meet?**

Once a month – usually Sunday afternoons

**Where do we meet?**

Locations around the city that represent our diversity such as:  
Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, Temple Emanu-El, South Highlands Presbyterian Church, Alabama School of Fine Arts, etc

**What do we do?**

Talk, listen and share our feelings and ideas about things that concern us  
Visit each other's communities and religious institutions  
Engage with community leaders  
In the past we have traveled to Washington D.C., Atlanta, Selma/Montgomery, and Nashville.

**Why?**

To openly discuss stereotypes and prejudice  
To build trust among the participants  
To become allies for one another  
To make new friends  
To learn about the history, culture, religious beliefs and concerns of various communities  
To build communication and interaction between communities  
To improve relations in our city and make Birmingham model for celebrating diversity  
To learn about conflict resolution  
To develop personal leadership skills

**Who?**

Any teen entering grade 10 – 11  
Past members who are seniors

**How Much?**

There is no cost to the members to participate in the monthly meetings or travel. The program is totally funded by individual and foundation grants and donations.

**For more information, contact:**

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## **VISION, MISSION, GOALS, OBJECTIVES, SHARED VALUES OF PEACE Birmingham**

### **VISION**

There are walls that encircle every community or group. These walls protect us and help maintain our identity, values and culture. But these walls also keep others out.

The young people of PEACE Birmingham will create doors thru which we can enter each other's communities to nurture and sustain a Birmingham that acknowledges, values, celebrates and welcomes people of different races, religions, and cultural backgrounds. The future of our city and country are in the hands of young adults. PEACE Birmingham gives them the tools with which to build a strong positive future for all.

### **MISSION**

To provide an open, welcoming, trusting environment in which to speak freely

To facilitate and encourage racial, religious and cultural awareness

To create life long mutual respect and understanding among its members

### **GOALS**

To encourage racial, ethnic, religious and cultural awareness, acceptance and understanding

To recognize our common humanity

To build communication and interaction between communities

To learn what it is like to live in some else's skin

To identify and deal with internalized oppression

### **OBJECTIVES**

To identify and confront prejudice

To develop leadership skills

To learn about conflict resolution

To share our message by speaking to another civic, religious, cultural group (with partners)

To become allies for one another

To have fun and make new friends

To establish a comfort zone to openly share thoughts and feelings

To respond to emails, phones calls etc

### **SHARED VALUES (to be revised by the members)**

Every sector of the community is valuable to the growth and development of the city

I should treat others, as I want to be treated

My family and culture make me who I am

Prejudice and hate are wrong, and must be confronted and exposed

Conflicts can be resolved peacefully

I don't want others to try to convert me to their way of thinking about religion, politics etc.

I can have an opinion and it can be valid for me, without asking others to agree with me

To work together, I have to respect and trust you, not necessarily agree with you

### **HISTORY of PEACE Birmingham – People Engaged in A Cultural Exchange**

Beginning in January 1996, PEACE Birmingham was a project of Temple Emanu-El. It was created to provide a place for African American and Jewish teens to get to know one another and become allies as in the 60's Civil Rights Struggle. Co founders were Lois Cohen, Marc Gaines, and Bobbi Siegal. In 1998, the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute became a sponsoring partner. The advisors and members hope to make our city a place that welcomes and values all its residents, and provides equal opportunities for all.

In the fall of 2007, we opened the group to welcome anyone who sought to learn about and confront prejudice.

**CALENDAR of MEETINGS for 2007-08      SUNDAYS 2:00-5:00**  
9/16   10/21   11/11   12/9   1/13   2/10   3/9   4/13   5/4

8/19 – Opening PEACE Birmingham Parent-Member program 3-5 at the BCRI

**MOVIE NIGHTS** - We will try to show a movie once a month that deals with one of the communities represented in our group. These will probably be on Saturday nights. The dates will be announced.

**FINANCIAL** - There is no cost to individual members to participate. Only in the event of travel, do we ask for a deposit to hold one's reservation, but that money is refunded to the member at the start of the trip. The program is totally funded by individuals and foundations grants and donations.

**APPLICATION and RECRUITMENT PROCESS** - Applications are due by the end of April of the previous school year. Applicants will be notified if they were accepted or not by the middle of May.

**COMMUNICATION** – Most communication will be done by email. On our website (link thru ourtemple.org) you will find information about the group, discussion of issues and events related to our group goals, and schedules and directions for meetings and movie nights.

**DIALOGUE: RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES and PRINCIPLES**

*Adopted from the National Conference for Community and Justice*

Dialogue is a process through which people share openly and honestly their views, attitudes, beliefs, and feelings about a subject. The goal of dialogue is both simple and complex: to deepen and widen our understanding of ourselves and the other people with whom we are in dialogue.

**RIGHTS**

Each person has the right to express his or her beliefs, ideas and feelings.

Each person has the right to define him or herself without being labeled by others.

Each person has the right to ask questions to understand what someone else is saying.

Each person has the right not to change or be forced to change.

Each person has the right to ask others to hold what he or she says in confidence.

**RESPONSIBILITIES**

Each person has a responsibility to listen to others patiently and without judgment.

Each person has a responsibility not to make untested assumptions about others.

Each person has a responsibility to answer question in ways that help others understand him or her.

Each person has a responsibility to grant basic respect to others, even in times of conflict or disagreement.

Each person has responsibility to evaluate his or her own values and attitudes.

**PRINCIPLES**

Only one person speaks at a time

Everything said or done during our meetings is confidential

The only foolish questions is the one you do not ask

Respect the opinions of others

Be an active listener

We can agree to disagree

## **P.E.A.C.E. BIRMINGHAM TEAM: THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES and COMMITMENTS**

### **Board of Governors**

Attend 4 Board of Governors meetings per year  
Attend PEACE meetings at least once during the year  
Raise money – \$500.00 for PEACE Birmingham – donate or collect from others  
Oversee a specific aspect of PEACE  
    Program/curriculum  
    Funding  
    Publicity  
    Retreat / Travel

### **Advisors**

Organize, facilitate, and attend all member meetings  
Attend all advisor meetings  
Help write curriculum/program  
Create and execute retreat and travel plans  
Facilitate discussions  
Make personal contact with members  
Behave as a role model reflecting PEACE Birmingham goals and values

### **CURRENT ADVISORS** ( year joined as an advisor)

Hungsin Chin (2007)	David Cohen (1996)	Lois Cohen (1996)
Cathy Corley (2007)	Eddie Davis (2005)	Pegah Kannar (2007)
Arlene Folsom (2006)	Judy Le (2007)	Fernando Martinez (2007)
Angie McCord (2006)	Barry McNealy (1998)	Bobbi Siegal (1996- 2007)
Denny Read (2007)	Linda Verin (2000)	Ahmad Ward (2000)

### **Member**

Enrolled grades 10-11 – can remain active in senior year  
Committed to attend all PEACE programs and make it a top priority  
Speak your mind and be open to express your concerns, ideas, and feelings  
Be a good listener - hear what they are saying  
Identify and confront prejudice  
Ask questions to seek knowledge, not to challenge or change someone's mind  
Share the message of PEACE with a civic, school or religious group  
Interested in learning and celebrating diversity

### **Parents**

Remind their young person to make the attendance of PEACE programs a priority  
Ask them what they did and learned at the meetings  
Attend Parent programs  
Offer to help with an aspect of the program  
Let us know if you have any questions or concerns