



Minutes of the

ANNUAL MEETING

Arizona State University Retirees Association

April 16, 2016, 11:30am - 2:00pm

Prior to the beginning of the formal meeting, members in attendance enjoyed time for casual conversation and lunch.

Welcome and Lunch – Jim Fordemwalt

President Jim Fordemwalt welcomed guests and opened the lunch line.

Remarks and Association Overview – Jim Fordemwalt

President Fordemwalt formally opened the meeting at 12:00 by welcoming everyone and asking past presidents to stand and be recognized. He then recognized and thanked Board officers and members, committee chairs, office staff and the many volunteers who support the Association and carry out its functions.

Remarks by Scholarship Recipient Kazuko Niimi

Scholarship Committee Chair Sue Blumer thanked the organization and the members of the Scholarship Committee for making the scholarship possible. Sue introduced Kazuko Niimi, 2015-16 Scholarship recipient.

Kazuko, a junior in the School of Engineering of Matter, Transport & Energy, thanked the Association for providing the scholarship. Kazuko was born, raised and educated in Japan. In 1998 she moved with her husband and family to the United States. The Japan earthquake and tsunami of 2011 with the resulting nuclear disaster had a profound effect on Kazuko, causing

her to think about the future of energy and to choose chemical engineering as her career. Kazuko described herself as a wife, a mother, a student, and a practical thinker with a unique ability to apply life lessons, believing that she will be a better engineer because of her life experiences. A quote from Booker T. Washington, *“Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome,”* sums up her life view. She is looking forward to making an impact on the world for good.

Video History Project Interview Clips

Project Committee Chair Dave Scheatzle introduced the committee members and thanked them for their work. He then noted that the Video History Project began as an effort to record the history of ASU’s development through the people who were part of it and has continued that process. He showed clips from recent interviews to give the audience a sense of the Project and the interview process. Dave also demonstrated how to access the interviews for viewing from the ASU Library Archives.

Remarks by Dr. Zuhdi Jasser, M.D., Founder and President of the American Islamic Forum for Democracy

Jim Fordemwalt introduced Dr. Zuhdi Jasser.

Dr. Jasser described Islamism as a politicized religion with the goal of creating Islamic states. Salafi jihadism is a transnational religious-political ideology with a goal of returning to (what adherents believe to be) “true” Suni Islam – the way it was at the time of Mohammed. The threat of a politicized religion running a country is that laws are made up to enforce beliefs and repress any alternate beliefs. All Imams come from one religious school so that while some of them do not teach violence, they all have the same basic message teaching anti-Americanism, anti-Semitism, anti-nationalism and that American imperialism is the cause of all the world’s problems. Children are indoctrinated from an early age for total allegiance to the faith. They are taught to die for their faith and not their country, so radicalization becomes an easy process. The Muslim community is also taught the ideology that anyone arrested is being

targeted by the police for their faith. Dr. Jasser then talked about a multi-prong approach to fight against radicalized Islamic movements. First is a separation of “mosque and state,” the separation of theology and politics, and then the need to address the core ideologies of Islam, focusing on tolerance. There must be a unified Western vision (all political parties and leadership) in dealing with radical Islam. The “hands off” policy of the current administration over the last 7 years has clearly not been effective. Additionally, the Muslim community should not be isolated or ostracized to become angry breeding grounds for jihadists. And there must be change within the Muslim community. To that end, the Muslim Reform Movement is gaining momentum. This is an international initiative of Muslims who stand for a “respectful, merciful and inclusive interpretation of Islam” and who are seeking to transform their communities based on 3 principles: peace, human rights, and secular governance. A copy of the Muslim Reform Movement Declaration is attached to this document. There is hope in the fight against radical Islam, but we will need to work together to accomplish change.

Introduction of New Board Members and Officers by 2016-17 ASURA President Barbara White

Jim Fordemwalt introduced Barbara White, the incoming President of the Association. Barbara thanked Jim for his service last year and then introduced new Board members. Barbara noted that ASU had recently appointed an Officer for Wellbeing and suggested that the theme for this coming year could be “Wellbeing” in all its permutations – membership, finances, and outreach. She encouraged members to actively participate in the Association by volunteering their time and talents, by reaching out to friends and colleagues considering retirement and sharing the good news about ASURA, and by making suggestions about fundraising and other events, future seminar topics, travel, etc. “We are about the members, we need to hear from you!”

Barbara concluded the meeting, thanking the speaker and audience for their participation.

MUSLIM REFORM MOVEMENT

PREAMBLE

We are Muslims who live in the 21st century. We stand for a respectful, merciful and inclusive interpretation of Islam. We are in a battle for the soul of Islam, and an Islamic renewal must defeat the ideology of Islamism, or politicized Islam, which seeks to create Islamic states, as well as an Islamic caliphate. We seek to reclaim the progressive spirit with which Islam was born in the 7th century to fast forward it into the 21st century. We support the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was adopted by United Nations member states in 1948.

We reject interpretations of Islam that call for any violence, social injustice and politicized Islam. Facing the threat of terrorism, intolerance, and social injustice in the name of Islam, we have reflected on how we can transform our communities based on three principles: peace, human rights and secular governance. We are announcing today the formation of an international initiative: the Muslim Reform Movement.

We have courageous reformers from around the world who have written our Declaration for Muslim Reform, a living document that we will continue to enhance as our journey continues. We invite our fellow Muslims and neighbors to join us.

DECLARATION

A. Peace: National Security, Counterterrorism and Foreign Policy

1. We stand for universal peace, love and compassion. We reject violent jihad. We believe we must target the ideology of violent Islamist extremism, in order to liberate individuals from the scourge of oppression and terrorism both in Muslim-majority societies and the West.
2. We stand for the protection of all people of all faiths and non-faith who seek freedom from dictatorships, theocracies and Islamist extremists.
3. We reject bigotry, oppression and violence against all people based on any prejudice, including ethnicity, gender, language, belief, religion, sexual orientation and gender expression.

B. Human Rights: Women's Rights and Minority Rights

1. We stand for human rights and justice. We support equal rights and dignity for all people, including minorities. We support the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.

2. We reject tribalism, castes, monarchies and patriarchies and consider all people equal with no birth rights other than human rights. All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. Muslims don't have an exclusive right to "heaven."
3. We support equal rights for women, including equal rights to inheritance, witness, work, mobility, personal law, education, and employment. Men and women have equal rights in mosques, boards, leadership and all spheres of society. We reject sexism and misogyny.

C. Secular Governance: Freedom of Speech and Religion

1. We are for secular governance, democracy and liberty. We are against political movements in the name of religion. We separate mosque and state. We are loyal to the nations in which we live. We reject the idea of the Islamic state. There is no need for an Islamic caliphate. We oppose institutionalized sharia. Sharia is manmade.
2. We believe in life, joy, free speech and the beauty all around us. Every individual has the right to publicly express criticism of Islam. Ideas do not have rights. Human beings have rights. We reject blasphemy laws. They are a cover for the restriction of freedom of speech and religion. We affirm every individual's right to participate equally in *ijtihad*, or critical thinking, and we seek a revival of *ijtihad*.
3. We believe in freedom of religion and the right of all people to express and practice their faith, or non-faith, without threat of intimidation, persecution, discrimination or violence. Apostasy is not a crime. Our *ummah*--our community--is not just Muslims, but all of humanity.

We stand for peace, human rights and secular governance. Please stand with us!

Affirmed this Fourth Day of December, Two-Thousand and Fifteen

By the founding authors who are signatories below

#MuslimReform

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Please sign our declaration www.change.org

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...affirmed at 8 AM this Fourth Day of December, Two-Thousand and Fifteen