

**For Immediate Release**

**March 11, 2010**

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Greater Rochester Community of Churches**

***The Peace Walk for a Nuclear Free Future***

On March 6 the Northern 2010 Interfaith Peace Walk initiated by the Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist Order began in Streamburg, N.Y. Twenty walkers, led by Buddhist nun, Jun Yasuda, will make their way through Western New York on a 700 mile pilgrimage to call attention to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Review Conference that will be held on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the United Nations in New York City—the walkers destination.

The walkers will visit the Six Nations of Native American territories in New York State as part of their pilgrimage. Historically and currently, the native communities—from uranium miners to tribal communities targeted with nuclear waste dumps—bear a disproportionate burden of risk from the nuclear fuel cycle.

The walkers are being hosted each night in various towns and communities along the way by people showing hospitality and support for the message of peace and environmental responsibility that they are calling to our attention.

*“Each step is a prayer toward a nuclear free future”* is the daily prayer and mantra of the group.

20 people, including 7 from Japan and 1 from France, will make their way through the Greater Rochester area within the next few weeks. On Saturday afternoon, March 20, the walkers will arrive in Albion, NY and be hosted by the Pullman Unitarian Universalist Church. On Sunday afternoon, March 21 the walkers will arrive in Brockport and be hosted by St. Luke’s Episcopal Church. On Monday, March 22 the walkers will arrive in Rochester, NY and be hosted by St. Joseph’s House of Hospitality. They will remain in Rochester until they leave for Farmington and Canandaigua on Wednesday, March 24.

The public is invited to participate with the Interfaith Peace Walk at any time along their journey. Route information can be found at the website of Greater Rochester Community of Churches, <http://www.grcc.org/> , on their Facebook page or by calling the office at (585) 254-2570. Email can be sent to: [grcc1@frontiernet.net](mailto:grcc1@frontiernet.net) .

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