



Group at Swinomish

INTERFAITH PEACE WALK UPDATES JUNE 18 – 23 SWINOMISH INDIAN NATION TO VANCOUVER B.C.

We wake up with the familiar sound of the drums and the sounds of Morning Prayer. Yesterday was a rest day everyone doing laundry and trying to catch up on emails and even having a little afternoon nap. The greeting here at Swinomish Indian Nation has been wonderful. On top of the fantastic food and conversation (including a discussion between Jim and Father Denis about the Cincinnati Pittsburgh play-off game last year) we were also invited to visit their Long House and got the tour and history with the caretakers of the Long House.

Today we are off to the small town of Bow WA we are staying at the Chuckanut Alpaca Ranch. The day was beautiful the sky was blue and you could see the mountains to the right of us and the bay on the left. Walter and Lois Schulter owner and caretakers of the ranch warmly greeted us. They invited us to relax and



Some of the walkers get a closer look

enjoy the ranch we were able to go into the fields and enjoy the Alpacas,



Alpaca Ranch

enjoy the comfort of the guest house and also go for a swim in their solar heated pool! Most of us went out to the fields and enjoyed

our visit with the Alpacas. They are very timid creatures but also very curious. They had a group of very young ones that were the most curious.

After our visit with the Alpacas we all started rotating in and out of the pool taking a break for dinner. The pool was perfect for a bunch of us with sour feet, legs ect.



Today we are off to Bellingham WA we have to go over the mountain. I have to say that being from the mid west I am always amazed at the diversity and the beauty of the west coast. We are going over the mountain on Chuckanut drive this road is surrounded by forest, animals and

views of the islands. We stopped often to view and appreciate all different animals we saw along the way Eagles, Raccoons and deer small and large. I would like to thank Larry, Bob, Charlie and Alice for their great effort in flagging to keep everyone safe today. As well as everyone who flagged during the walk but today had a very narrow shoulder with many curves up and down the mountain so there were a lot of blind spots.



In town we were greeted by the Raging Grannies. They were singing and dancing and ready to way with us through overnight. After we where we were night we walked and we were going to community share of the walk.



walk the rest of the town to our next got settled into staying for the shuttled to where meet with the dinner and stories

The Raging Grannies greeting the walkers in Bellingham

We were also entertained with some great songs accompanied by the gazoo, cybels and a ukulele. If you have never had the pleasure of a visit with the raging grannies I would recomed it. Check out their web site:
<http://www.raginggrannies.com>



Dinner music provided by the Raging granuies

June 19th Bellingham to Lummi Island

Today we walk to the Lummi Indian Reservation. We actually made it to the overnight by noon and had lunch. While we were eating we were joined by a few locals who sang us some songs and a local reporter who joined us for lunch and then did some interviews with individual walkers. We still had a few more miles to walk and then we are going to take a short tour of Lummi Island (of course by foot). As we waited for the ferry it gave us a chance to



Waiting for the ferry to Lummi Island

visit with more people from the community. There was a group of kids from the high school all carrying musical instruments. I spoke to a young man named Thomas and he told me that the biggest problem on the island was that the only time that the community had anything to do

with the Native community was when they wanted them to stop selling shell fish along the road I looked over to the road and sure enough not a vender to be found. As I was looking I could imagine how nice it would have been to see local venders selling fresh Oysters, Crab and Salmon and thought how sad it was that there was not more cooperation and understanding. We walked the mile across the Island and then we all headed to the local shop for a coffee. Then back across the ferry to load into the vehicles and headed back to the church.



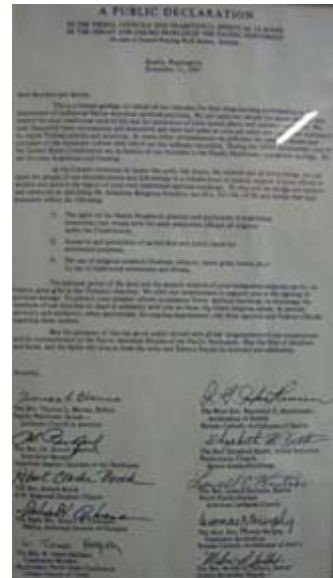
View from Lummi Island

Back at the church and some ladies and men from the community had stopped by and made us a surprise dinner. That was a pleasant surprise considering that as of noon no one knew we were coming. After dinner the church choir had practice while they were singing we relaxed and made peace cranes for give-a-ways. Utsumi-Shoni and Marcus discovered a Public Declaration in a frame on the wall. It starts with.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This is a formal apology on behalf of our churches for their long-standing participation in the destruction of the traditional Native American spiritual practices.

To read the rest just click on the picture.



A Public Declaration
[Click here to enlarge](#)

June 20th

Lummi Nation to Ferndale WA

This was a short day so we actually walked past where we are staying today to cut down tomorrow's miles. The ladies that came to cook for us were great just full of life and loved to joke around. They cooked us a feast of chicken and baked potato's salad and it just went on and on.



The most spectacular part of today was at sunset. The mountaintop finally made an appearance. What a beautiful site.

We also watched a DVD tonight that was done by one of the walkers on the walk to the Trident Nuclear Submarine Base on Bainbridge Island (Bangor) last year for the anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Great job Alice.



June 21st

Ferndale to Blain

Today is our last day in the US tomorrow we cross in to Canada. And sometime today Doyle and his mom Willie will join us. A woman who had seen us walking that day decided to join us and while we were walking decided that the road was too dangerous and went home got her hard hat and big stop/slow sign plus her bright yellow vest and stopped traffic for us all day. She was really in to it. (Sorry I don't remember



her name) All I can say is she must do it for a living she had all the hand signals down and everything. The big debate for most of the day was one of the walkers had left their passports at home in Seattle and were they going to be able to cross into Canada without it? Finally one of the walkers said lets just go get it we'll be back in no time. So some of us waited up for Dole and Willie to arrive and it was perfect timing they pulled in with their RV and a surprise Doyle's partner Janice. When we finished visiting with them we

walked over to the front of the church and there was the crew from getting the passport. Everyone's home for the night safe and sound.

June 22nd

Blain to Somewhere in B.C.

So the game plan for today is to caravan across the border. Once we are all across to go to the closest park and then start walking. Depending on how long it takes to cross the border will depend on how far we walk.

Crossing was relatively Simple we crossed got to the park and Sinji – Shoni got his map out and went to town looking for a route. When he got it all laid out we started on our way. For the rest of the walk and



during the World Peace Forum (WPF) we will be staying at the Aboriginal

Friendship Center in Vancouver. After the walk today we all gathered back at the center. Tonight is very special because we are celebrating Willie's birthday she is 93 years young and after all these years she chose to spend it with us. We are truly grateful to be able to spend it with her. She gives us strength and brings a lot of joy and happiness.



Happy Birthday Willie !!!!!

June 23rd

Last day walking into Vancouver

Today we walk into Vancouver through the city finishing at the Hiroshima – Nagasaki exhibit. Walking through a city is a great experience. All the honking by the car's people waving giving the peace sign talking to people on the street about what we are doing. The drums reverberating of the buildings seeming sometimes like the echo never stops carrying all the prayers on forever.

Steve Leeper from Mayors for Peace ([for more information on Mayors for Peace Click Here](#)) greeted us at the Storyeum We had our closing circle in front of the exhibit some of the walkers spoke along with the monks and Steve giving thanks for walking and praying for peace. Tonight will be our last night together tomorrow some of us will start making our way home and others will be staying for the WPF.

Check back for more information on the WPF and the activities on the conference.