NEWS RELEASE

Worcester County Chapter of ACLU of Massachusetts Receives Peace Award

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WORCESTER -- Worcester Peace Works presented the Worcester County Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts with its Peace Award on January 19, 2009, as part of Peace Works' annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration.

The Worcester Chapter received the award for its frequent work in the struggle for justice and providing help to the Worcester Peace Community. Among other things, the Worcester County Chapter of the ACLU of Massachusetts has provided monitors for demonstrations, and intervened on Peace Works' behalf when the organization was passing out flyers in front of the Worcester Centrum Centre, explaining Peace Works' rights to Centrum management. The Worcester Chapter also negotiated the use of a bullhorn at political events, as well as the policy of the City of Worcester regarding the taking of photographs at demonstrations.

The event, held in the Green Rooster Coffee House in the 1st Congregational Church, included a speech by Ron Madnick, Director of the Worcester County chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts, a keynote speech by Prof. Thomas L. Doughton, (coeditor of "Worcester Slave Narratives"), a shared Reading of Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech, and live musical entertainment by the Bunnie Price Band with songs by Lydia Fortune.

Past recipients of the Peace Award include the Worcester Immigration Coalition; Robert Anderson, community organizer and organizer of Kwaaza; Earlena Yelverton of the NAACP; Rosalie Tirella, editor of In City Times; Joe O'Brien, school committee member; Orgretta McNeil, school committee member; and Steve Patton, city councilor. All recipients received the award for their activities for social justice and help to the Worcester Peace Community.

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