PEACEMAKERS ON THE MARCH

IWagePeace draws religious groups together on Green

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— Bruce Barrett, of Milford, founder of IWagePeace.org

“We walk together, not because we are the same, but because we are bold and we are not afraid of our differences.”

NEW HAVEN

By Jim Shelton
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NEW HAVEN • Fueled by a faith in the power of peaceful people, about 150 marchers led a Sunday walk among the city’s religious communities.

“We’re here for healing,” said Bruce Barrett, of Milford, founder of IWagePeace.org, which organized the fourth annual IWagePeace walk with participation by 35 faith groups in Greater New Haven. “Healing for our nation, healing for Israel and healing for Palestine.”

The marchers were joined by representatives from Combatants For Peace, which brings together Israelis and Palestinians in an effort to foster peace in the Middle East.

“We do not need to agree on everything to heal and work for justice,” Barrett said.

Before the march, Rabbi Joshua Ratner of Congregation Kol Ami in Cheshire greeted the participants at the Green.

“We must embody the change we seek,” Ratner said.

He noted that centuries of religious persecution and anti-Semitism illustrate how damaging war can be, but it must not stop the work of peace-makers.

“Peace is not something we merely wish for. It is something we feel compelled to create,” Ratner said.

At each stop along the march, the group recited a pledge of friendship and solidarity with a particular segment of the religious community. Part of the pledge was, “We walk together, not because we are the same, but because we are bold and we are not afraid of our differences.”

NEW HAVEN

By Randall Beach
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NEW HAVEN • Minnie Anderson can still sit in prison after a crime he “did not commit.”

Anderson, now retired, worked as a investigator for the criminal unit of the Legal Assistance Association.

The two New Haven men were convicted of murder in the slaying of Ex-Defense Investigator Men ‘did not commit’ murder

1 man dead, others remain in prison in ’93 slaying
For much of the march, Barbara Mackintosh of Milford walked briskly at the head of the procession. “Peace in the Middle East needs to happen for the world’s sake, but it frequently takes faith to believe it really will happen,” she said.

Just behind her was Saifuddin Hasaan, a member of New Haven’s Masjid Al-Islam. In a sense, he was walking home, because the mosque was the march’s final destination.

“As Muslims, our whole religion, our name, means peace,” Hasaan said. “This is something we have to do. We’re showing our support to the community.”

Participants from Combatants For Peace included two former members of the Israeli army and two former Palestinian combatants. The quartet also will join in an open discussion at 4 p.m. Oct. 13 at Milford City Hall.

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