

## International Leadership Conference Follow-Up Dinner in Las Vegas

Leslie Rigney  
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On December 29th a sharing and formal dinner was held at True Parents' Former house in Las Vegas. The dinner was a result of a cooperative effort with Rev. Doo, representing the resources of the Las Vegas Family Church, Kay Yamuguchi, representing ACLC Ministry, Mary Hida and Sera Hirano, representing WFWP and Katherine Duncan and Leslie Rigney of UPF Las Vegas. We were very grateful to have Richard DeSena attend the event presenting the highlights of the Conference and the heart and vision of our True Parents.

Each guest was welcomed at the front door, given a folder containing the same contents as the participants at the ILC in Washington received, and also the written report from the conference.

Councilman Bob Coffin and his wife, Mary were very happy to meet Assemblyman Chris Edwards and have a chance to talk together. Later, Councilman Coffin shared that he had great respect for Chris Edwards, as he stood up against threats and extortion, even from people in Chris' own party.

The program began with welcoming remarks from Katherine Duncan and Leslie Rigney. Richard DeSena presented a short video about UPF and a presentation about the Peace Principles, and then went thru the power point about the ILC, also expressing the vision and hope of the Founders in establishing the IAPP.

The guests and hosts were asked to introduce themselves: Rev. Bill Owens and his wife, Debbie, Assemblyman Chris Edwards, Mary Hause, wife of Bob Coffin, Councilman Coffin, Mrs. Faith McDonnell, Rev. Bill McDonnell, Rev. Emanuel Wasson, Katherine Duncan, Rev. Doo, Leslie Rigney, Jim Rigney, Richard DeSena.

Following introductions, there was sharing about the experiences at the ILC. Chris Edwards said how wonderful it was to be with sincerely good people and how important the spiritual and moral aspects are to good governance, which were discussed. Mary Hause, altho she wasn't at the ILC was very interested in the mention of the media, as she just recently retired as a journalist. Bob Coffin spoke about past experiences with ILC, saying he 'knew all these people when they still had hair, and his was black'! He said the events are always about unity and peace. Mrs. McDonnell expressed her deep concern for the youth and how to help the families, to save America. Rev. McDonnell expressed how important it is to seek unity, that if we are for peace and the dignity of the human family, we should be able to come together, no matter what political party we like. Rev. Owens expressed his deep appreciation for the ILC, that it was a truly wonderful event.



We all moved into the next room. Katherine shared deeply about her experiences at the ILC and in Washington. Each person shared about their deepest concerns for Las Vegas, for the people they were caring for. There was some heated expression around Linden Johnson and his plan for people of color (Katherine artfully intervened). We heard from Councilman Coffin about the issues in Las Vegas, with others sharing about some of the difficulties he mentioned. Rev. Wasson shared how important it is for people to work together on issues. He also testified about our work, that it is not about conversion but about principles. There was a lot of deep sharing and appreciation for one another. Richard also shared his personal experiences in the family he grew up in, and how much hope he has experienced in several decades of this work. Katherine made a call to action to encourage everyone to think to February and how we could bring present or former members of Congress, also what activities we have locally. Mary and Sera could also share about WFWP, which was very interesting to the ladies.

We bid goodnight to one another, each looking forward to meeting again. Yet the feeling was that our goal in connecting more deeply about the ILC and with one another was met, and we can now pursue the next step in connecting members of congress to the ILC in Korea. We also felt we could offer a dinner to our guests which could represent our True Parents. Thanks to all who helped.