

6th Annual Peace Conference at the Jack London High School

Co-sponsored by the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Ethics

On May 22, 2010 the Wallenberg Institute co-sponsored and participated in the Jack London CDS annual Peace Conference in Van Nuys, California. Students, parents, community members, and representatives attended the conference from the Los Angeles Unified School District. The Jack London School is part of the District's Options program for students who have been removed from the comprehensive high school for a wide variety of reasons.



Wallenberg Institute director, Dr. Stephen Sideroff spoke about the seeming contradictions between the Golden Rule, and the mindset of "Survival of the



Fittest." Ron Klemp and Doug Kaback from California State University, Northridge, and members of the Wallenberg Board made a presentation on "School DayZ" which is a program designed to teach students ethics and good decision making with vignettes about school related problems.

In this presentation, Ron, Doug, and assistant principal of the Jack London Community Day School (CDS), Walter Weronka, another Wallenberg Board member, worked with eight CDS students to perform a play that was spun from one of the *School DayZ* stories. The students began their performance, and then Doug would stop the performance and introduce a process from "Theater of the Oppressed," where audience members were allowed to make suggestions to the characters about some of their actions. The play was described as an "anti-model" where solutions don't seem to be possible. The audience then contributes either by sharing ideas or by assuming roles in the play itself in this interactive and innovative genre of theater.



Miriam Stein, another Board member of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute conducted a very successful hour-long Yoga class attended by CDS students and members of a youth group from Huntington Park, California. For many of these participants, this was their first exposure to Yoga and the reaction was extremely positive. We are looking forward to a repeat performance at their annual conference