

12/24/2008

Area Scouts Receive Peace Light



Nick (left), Troop 1607, received the Peace Light flame from Peter Aivars, Chief Scout of the Latvian Scouts Abroad.

SOUTHBURY - Members of local Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops met with a scouting representative from Latvia to receive the Peace Light as it travels around the world.

The Peace Light is part of an international scouting movement. Having started in the grotto in Bethlehem where Jesus Christ was born, the light is traveling across the world showing how peace can be spread.

Arriving from Bethlehem, the Peace Light flame was then passed along to Peter Aivars, Chief Scout of the Latvian Scouts Abroad, to be passed along to his local Scouts and U.S. Scout Units.

Mr. Aivars met up with local Southbury Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts at VFW Post 1607 for the passing of the flame. During the ceremony the following message from the Austrian Scouts and Guides was read:

"Through we live in a troubled world, we are convinced that peace will only become reality, as soon as each individual has his own peace, shares it with his community, his neighbor and the environment.

"According to the ideals of Scouting, we hope to remove the borders and barriers between nations and peoples through personal contacts to promote a peaceful and fear-free coexistence with different races, religions, cultures and political ideologies.

"The chain of lights is not only a symbol for actively lived charity but also expresses warmth, family and friendship. By passing on the Peace Light from Bethlehem we want to help overcome the darkness caused by hate and egoism and replace it with the light of harmony and mutual respect."