

## SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING APRIL 5, 2018

The Social Justice Committee met April 5, 2018 at First Parish. Present were: Pearl Cohen, Joanna Elsmore, Betty Gilson and Rev. Rachel Tedesco. The following items were discussed and decided.

- The SJC bank balance is \$3,762,89 of which \$1,356,17 is for *Read to Me, Father*.
- Thanks to the efforts of Mary Pendleton, Paula Phipps, contact for the Biodiversity organization, and members of the SJC and Green Sanctuary Committee, a successful *Biodiversity for a Living Climate* program was held in the church sanctuary on April 3. About 40 people attended, half from First Parish and half from the wider community. Executive Director Adam Sacks gave an in-depth overview of the value of carbon sequestration. Architect Christopher Haines followed with more information. The Q & A continued into the Coffee Hour.
- The next Black Lives Matter films will be *Detroit* on Tues., April 24 and *I Am Not Your Negro* on Tues., May 22. We discussed plans for a second season. We would like suggestions for possible films. Betty will contact the Bridgewater Citizens for Civility and Respect to check their interest and ask them for film suggestions. We will need 9 films for the year – Sept. through May. \*
- The SJC and the First Principle Project are continuing plans for a Black Lives Matter banner for the church. Pam Hayes-Bohanan and Rev. Rachel will be attending a program at BSU on Tues., April 24 where ideas will be presented for introducing the plans for the banner to the congregation.
- The Martin Richard institute for Social Justice will be holding its final March program in the UPH at First Parish on April 24 from 4 – 5:30 pm. This is rescheduled from BSU due to many snow cancellations. Richard Kahlenberg will present a program on “Saving Democracy by Having Rich and Poor Students Go to School Together”. He will discuss the benefits of schools integrated by income levels. All are welcome to this free program. Refreshments will be served. Betty Gilson will act as liaison and be there to open and close the building.
- Our spring GLBTA lunch will be held at First Parish on Tues., April 24 from 12 – 1:00 pm in the UPH. The students want us to send them questions about themselves; and they will send us questions about our beliefs. Contact Betty to offer help with the lunch: food, set up and clean up. We will be sitting a circle so need finger food, some vegetarian (perhaps vegan) and some GF.
- For the June Share the Plate we discussed making a donation for Claudio, one of the speakers at the March 25 Green Sanctuary service. Debbie Baumgarten thought there might be some way to do it through School on Wheels. She will speak with the professor and check on possibilities.
- Rachel reported on the *March for Our Lives* participation by church members. In the evening on Fri., March 23 a group made signs at church. On Sat. afternoon, March 24 Rachel and the Gillespies went to the March in Boston. Sean Cooper, Debbie

Baumgarten, Laurie Lessner and Shara Yabroudy started the march from Madison Park High.

- Sam Baumgarten organized a morning Standout in Bridgewater Center. About 40 people participated and it was well received. The Peace Vigil Committee organized an anti- gun violence postcard and letter writing program at the church and provided refreshments and a warming place. A good group came to the church including ten BSU students of whom nine were international students from Asian countries.
- Rachel, Betty and Eileen Hiney will attend UU Mass Action Advocacy Day in Boston on April 10.
- Betty and Rachel will work on the SJC Annual Report due May 7.

The next meetings will be

- a. First Principle Project on Thurs., May 3 at 7:00 pm at the church
- b. SJC on Thurs. June 7 at 7:00 pm at the church

\*BCCR voted to continue sponsoring films.