

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT FOR May 2, 2019

A meeting of the First Parish Social Justice Committee was held Thurs., May 2, 2019 at the church. Present were Sonia D'Alarcao, Betty Gilson, Felix Matos and MaryKate Wells. The following issues were discussed and decided.

The SJC bank balance is \$3,798.83 of which \$903.73 is for *Read to Me, Father*. Sonia reported on Dr. Kellie Carter-Jackson who will be speaking to the African Heritage group at Old Colony Correctional Center in June. She is reducing her usual fee because it is a prison. Since many of the fathers are in this group, we decided it would be appropriate to use \$200 of that money toward her stipend.

We discussed the successful Project Somos dinner which was held at the church on April 22 with about 25 people attending. There was a good meal and a fine presentation by Greg Kemp and Heather Knox, directors. Sonia and MaryKate follow their FaceBook page and Sonia will be joining one of the trips this coming year.

Betty shared a copy of the Care brochure from Rev. Rachel. It is complete except for the cover logo. Tony Winters is completing that and the brochure will be ready for print very soon. It will be distributed to churches, libraries and possibly other locations in the 3 Bridgewater.

The pronoun stickers are ready for distribution. Sonia agreed to make an announcement this coming Sunday May 5 explaining their use. For this first week we will add them to our name tags at Coffee Hour. In the future ushers can ask people to apply them. Sonia reported that the following people have agreed to serve on the Welcoming Congregation Renewal Task Force: Juanita Brunelle, Sonia D'Alarcao, Vernon Domingo, James Hayes-Bohanan, McKayla Hoffman, and Tony Winters. MaryKate expressed interest in participating as well. Since there isn't much time left in the church year, we agreed that the June 6 SJC meeting should be dedicated to working on establishing this group. Betty will notify all the members and post an invitation to the congregation about joining this meeting. Sonia will also announce the June 6 meeting at the Sunday service. Through her work at BAMSI Sonia has learned of an appropriate speaker for this program which she will mention to the task force.

The final Black Lives matter film of this season is *Dear White People*, a satirical comedy about a culture war on a mostly white college campus. It is at the church on Tues., May 28.

We discussed films for the next season and agreed on the following.

The Hate U Give Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Now, facing pressure from all sides of the community, Starr must find her voice and stand up for what's right.

If Beale Street Could Talk A young woman embraces her pregnancy while she and her family set out to prove her childhood friend and lover innocent of a crime he didn't commit.

The BlackKlansman Ron Stallworth, an African American police officer from Colorado Springs, CO, successfully manages to infiltrate the local Ku Klux Klan branch with the help of a Jewish surrogate who eventually becomes its leader. Based on actual events.

Selma A chronicle of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s campaign to secure equal voting rights via an epic march from **Selma** to Montgomery, Alabama, in 1965.

The Color Purple An epic tale spanning forty years in the life of Celie (Whoopi Goldberg), an African-American woman living in the South who survives incredible abuse and bigotry.

Mudbound Laura McAllan is trying to raise her children on her husband's Mississippi Delta farm, a place she finds foreign and frightening. In the midst of the family's struggles, two young men return from the war to work the land. Jamie McAllan, Laura's brother-in-law, is everything her husband is not - charming and handsome, but he is haunted by his memories of combat. Ronsel Jackson, eldest son of the black sharecroppers who live on the McAllan farm, now battles the prejudice in the Jim Crow South.

We will need to select 3 more films. Suggestions are welcome.

The Share the Plate selections for the next three months are:

June – Children and Youth UU Scholarship Fund

July and Aug. – MainSpring lunches

Sept. - Mercy Street

Oct. will probably be Brockton Interfaith Communities (BIC).

We need to make selections for Nov., Dec., Jan. and Feb. One of these should be the Soupman and we should leave one free in case of some urgent need. Sonia has suggested a repeat for Don't Forget Us, Pet Us.

Betty will ask DRE Sara Williams to write a message or the June *Bridging* about the Youth UU Scholarship Fund.

Various ideas were discussed for an item for the Auction. We decided on a Night at the Movies Popcorn bucket. Betty will order a few of the BLM films from the past year and we will buy other items for a large bucket or basket. Betty will submit the item.

Sonia mentioned that some groups decorate the lunch bags for the MainSpring lunches and thought that we could do the same. Betty will check on doing this. It will be for all ages.

Also, Sonia reminded us of the next White Supremacy program which will be Sunday, May 5 after service. We will be discussing two articles from *The Fire This Time*.

Rev. Rachel Tedesco was unable to attend the meeting, but sent this report.

Report on UU Mass Advocacy Day & other activities.

I went with Eileen Hiney by commuter rail to the UU Mass Advocacy Day on Tuesday, April 9. The day began with the annual gathering at the Arlington Street Church (UU) with a morning program. At lunch we gathered in district groups to discuss lobbying our state senators and reps. Walked up to Beacon Hill to the State House and went in groups to visit our legislators. I was with the group which lives in Senator Walter Timilty's district. A good-sized group met with his top legislative aide. I spoke specifically about the Safe Communities Act, which seriously impacts Brockton and other immigrant cities. In general, we were pleased that the senator was so supportive of progressive issues. Next I went alone to see my state rep, Allyson Sullivan, a

Republican. She is new in this elected office. She was cordial, but somewhat non-committal towards the measures UU Mass Action supports. But she was in favor of treatment for addiction over imprisonment. At the end, we went back to a State House conference room to write up reports on our visits. (No copies available of my written reports.)

Other Actions: I went with the Coalition for Social Justice (CSJ) on Thursday, April 11 to lobby on the Fair Share Amendment. This is a proposed amendment to the state constitution that would allow the rich earning over a million dollars a year to be taxed at a higher rate. This would bring in very necessary revenue for the state. The proposed amendment is a campaign of a state-wide coalition Raise Up Mass. of which CSJ is a member.

We didn't speak to the Judicial Committee holding the hearing in the Gardiner Auditorium. But we sat in the balcony and made our presence known with claps and cheers for the pro-amendment speakers.