

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEETING JUNE 13, 2019

The Social Justice Committee met in the Hive on June 13, 2019. Present were: Sonia D'Alarcao, Joanna Elsmore, Betty Gilson and Rev. Rachel Tedesco. The following items were discussed and decided.

- The bank balance is \$3,653.37 of which \$822.09 is for *Read to Me, Father*. We will be using \$200 of the *Read* money toward an honorarium for a special speaker at the prison, Kellie Carter-Jackson. Sonia, Betty and Ben Carson will donate the rest of her fee.
- Rev. Rachel shared her notes on the Five Point Cluster Community Closet. This memo will be added at the end of this report.* Joanna told about her experience last Saturday when she and Bobbe Anderson worked there. If there are enough volunteers from the church, Bobbe will train as a team leader. Both Bobbe and Joanna are interested in continuing to work on this project. Rachel will work with Bobbe to prepare a message for the summer *Bridging* requesting more recruits. They will repeat it for the Sept. *Bridging*.
- The Black Lives Matter film series selections were scheduled as follows for the fourth Tuesday of each month.
 - Sept. *The BlackkkKlansman*, about a black man pretending to be a KKK member
 - Oct. Parts 1 and 2 *When They See Us*, story of the Central Park Five, falsely convicted of crimes in NYC
 - Nov. Parts 3 & 4 *When They See Us*
 - Dec. *The Color Purple*, 40 years in the life of a southern African-American woman
 - Jan. *See You Yesterday*, 2 young teenage scientists try to time travel to change a killing
 - Feb. *Selma*, the story of Martin Luther King and the Civil Rights March in Selma, Alabama
 - March *The Hate You Give*, a young student witnesses the killing of her best friend
 - April *Mudbound*, a young mother trying to raise her children on a farm in the Mississippi Delta
 - May *If Beale St. Could Talk*, a young couple in Harlem have their plans derailed when the man is charged with murderSonia will post the flyers and info about these films on Facebook. Rachel will send Sonia and Betty the flyers when ready.
- We selected the Share the Plate selections for Nov. through Feb.
 - a. Nov. Don't Forget Us, Pet Us
 - b. Dec. Keep open for emergency or special request
 - c. Jan. Soupman for portable showers
 - d. Feb. Some LGBTQ group in connection with the Welcoming Congregation Renewal program at First Parish

- Rachel reminded us of this event.

AN INVITATION TO A SPECIAL JUNETEENTH DISPLAY

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19; 11 AM – 2 PM

AT THE VISUAL CENTER FOR BLACK AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

At the Universalist Unitarian Church of Brockton, 325 West Elm Street, Brockton Fredi Walker, curator and collector behind the Visual Center will be present to talk about this special display.

This event is free and open to the public.

Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. From its origin in 1865, the observance of June 19th as the African American Independence Day has spread across the United States and beyond. You may read more about this at <http://Juneteenth.com>. See more about the Visual Center on the church's website http://www.uubrockton.com/african_american_center.html

- Rachel reported on her recent social justice actions
 - She lobbied at the State House with the Coalition for Social Justice on the issues of Criminal Justice reform for a special Commission to Study Correctional spending, is it being spent as allocated; and the Fair Share Constitutional Amendment.
 - She continues to work for Mass Bail Fund and has provided bail about 8 times in the past 6 months. Eileen Hiney is planning to be a volunteer.
 - Many projects also align with the work of U UMass Action. Betty passed out a list of current Priority Legislation.
- Sonia reported on a presentation Dr. Kellie Carter-Jackson of Wellesley College gave for the African Heritage Coalition talking about black abolitionists. This was supported by the *Read to Me, Father* program. Sonia mentioned that the group sings the Black National Anthem at the start of each meeting. She suggested that we use it in one of our SJC services. It is in the grey hymnal and we have used it in the past.
- Betty shared the *Enterprise* article about the program on diversity that Cleonie Mainvielle organized at the Williams Middle School and mentioned the D.I.C.E. FaceBook page. We should promote this page with church members.
- Rachel passed out copies of the completed Bridgewater Area Social Services Brochure. She will be passing these out to churches, senior centers and other groups. Joanna is delivering the ones to the W. Bridgewater Senior Center.

Next Meetings

SJC Thurs., Aug. 1 at 7:00 pm a First Parish (No meeting in. July)

Full SJC Thurs., Sept. 5 at 7:00 pm at First Parish

***MEMO**

To: Social Justice Committee, First Parish Church in Bridgewater

From: Rev. Rachel Tedesco

Date: Saturday, June 1, 2019

Subject: My conversation with Marie Pires about the 5 Point Cluster Community Closet

I talked to Marie Pires, member of Unity Church of North Easton and Coordinator of the 5 Point Cluster Community Closet at the Brockton UU Church. We discussed Bobbe Anderson's proposal to have our church become involved in helping out with the Community Closet.

Marie said she was very happy to get more volunteers for the program. Several churches from the 5 Point Cluster are already involved: North Easton, Foxboro, Sharon and Canton. But they could use more volunteer help to open the Community Closet to the public the second Saturday of each month. Hours: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. It could be divided into 2 hour and a half shifts if there are enough people, 4-5 per shift.

Volunteers first need to learn the operation before they are on their own. There should be one knowledgeable team leader for each shift.

It would be a good fit to have a team of 4 to 5 people from Bridgewater work with an equal team from the Stoughton church. Bobbe is willing to be the leader in this project for our church and to go through the orientation with Marie. She's going to Brockton this coming Saturday (June 8) to learn the routines. Marie said two Saturdays of experience should be sufficient for Bobbe to learn how to set up and run the Closet and to supervise the team.

We could possibly start with a Saturday in the fall. I told her that we couldn't start before October. She said there might be an opening in November or December, but she'd have to check that out and get back to us. I told her that we'd be discussing this at our next Social Justice Committee meeting with Bobbe. Our concern is getting enough volunteers together to commit to this project.

If we have any more questions, we can contact her at marieepires@comcast.net; phone: 774-274-3893.