

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE REPORT FOR OCT. 3, 2019

A meeting of the Social Justice Committee was held Oct. 3 at the church. Present were: Betty Gilson, Janet Dye, Sonia D'Alarcao, Susan Irish, and Rev. Rachel Tedesco. The following issues were discussed and decided.

1. The SJC bank balance is \$3,085.16 of which \$351.26 is for *Read to Me Father*.
2. The Fall gathering with BSU LGBTQA Pride group will be Thurs., Nov 7, 2019 from 1 - 2 pm.
 - a. Rev Paul and Rev. Rachel will be attending the UUMA Inland Cluster meeting in Franklin and will join the meeting by 1:30 or before.
 - b. The food will be 2 quiche from Betty, mac and cheeses from Janet, fruit bowl from Susan and Coffee cake (or donation) from Rev. Rachel. (Late addition: cookies from Rev. Alicia Stewart-Velez of the Bridgewater Methodist Church.)
 - c. The topic will be information about our Welcoming Congregation Renewal program.
 - d. The new Rainbow Banner will probably be on display. It is being dedicated at the WCR service on Oct. 13 with McKayla Hoffman and Tony Winters.
3. We discussed some concerns about the Black Lives Matter films.
 - a. We need to make sure David Wilson, or the whoever is doing the A/V, puts on Closed Captioning. This is necessary for many attendees.
 - b. There is a conflict for the Nov. showing. The Nov. 26 date is the night of the town Church Thanksgiving program. Betty will contact the BCCR people about a possible alternative date. Currently their meeting is on Nov. 5, so we should consider Nov. 12 or 19. Although Nov. 19 is the date for Connections at the church. (Nov.12 has been set as the date.)
 - c. We should have the flyers for the Dec. film *The Color Purple* by Dec. 1 so that we can distribute some at the church fair on Dec. 6 & 7.
 - d. Sonia brought up the issue of copyright compliance. We should be paying a fee since we are showing the films to the public. Sonia

has filed a form with the MPLC (the licensing commission) and will let us know the cost, probably \$200 or less. She has requested a quote. We will ask the BCCR about sharing this with the SJC.

4. Upcoming Share the Plate Charities are Oct. - Brockton Interfaith Communities and Nov. - Don't Forget Us, Pet Us. The Dec. suggestions are for CABbies, Cancer Care Community Advisory Board which offers short term financial assistance for cancer patients in financial difficulty; Family and Community Resources, Inc., 18 Newton St., Brockton 508-583-6498 which helps with money for food; and services for abused women. We will decide at the Nov. meeting to be posted in. *Bridging* by Nov. 20.
5. Sonia suggested that we should try to reactivate the UU Animal Ministry branch at church. She will post an article for the next *Bridging* about the Nov. Share the Plate and also post an exploratory message about the UUAM. This will include photos and ask who might be interested in joining the group.
6. We have not received any updates on the NuclearBan.ma project. Rev. Rachel and Betty had sent letters to Co-Chairs Sen. Timilty and Rep. Campbell, and others signed up to participate in various ways. Betty will check online for more info. Janet reported on attending a special Peace Program in Cambridge sponsored by Mass. Peace Action.
7. Laurie Lessner gave Sonia information about AutumnFest which was held on Sep.t 28 on the BSU Quad. Laurie staffed the table which received several visitors and a good reception. She gave out lots of BLM flyers and spoke with a young trans and a non -binary person from the college about our WC program.
8. We discussed plans for participating in the Holly Day Faire Fri., Dec. 6 from 6 – 8 pm and Sat., Dec. 7 from. 10:00 am – 2:00 pm at the church.

- a. Janet will order the Equal Exchange items and will print MainSpring House donation gift cards to sell at the SJC table. Right now EE items are 10% off, so she will put in the order right away.
- b. Rachel, Sonia and Susan agreed to help staff the table. Betty will check with Pat Hart and Ginger Irish about helping.

9. Rachel gave the following report.

Rachel's Report to the SJC Meeting, Oct. 3, 2019

- a. Boston Climate Strike Rally on Sept. 20. Old news by now, but I thank all who attended with me: Rev. Paul Sprecher, Debbie Baumgarten, Korin Zigler, Kat and Scott Gillespie, and Heather Mehdi.
- b. Following Up on the Climate Strike, there will be several activities coming up in the next month with UU Mass Action and other local organizations, like the Coalition for Social Justice and the Environmental League of Mass. (ELM) locally and in Boston:
 - a. UU Mass Action's latest email newsletter is proposing that children and youth in RE to each create a drawing and/or a message on a 8.5 x 11 inch piece of paper about climate change on Oct. 6 or 13. Then to send creations to UU Mass Action office. See UU Mass email for details. (Sent message and UU Mass newsletter to Sonia, Green Sanctuary Committee chairs and Sara Williams. Included a link to pictures of the climate rally signs for inspiration.
 - b. UU Mass Action Advocacy Day on Wed., Oct. 23, 10 AM to 12:30 PM at the State House.
 - c. Alternatively, plan a "call-in" day to target our state legislators to support relevant climate action bills.

Locally: "A Community Dialogue on Energy & the Environment" - Tuesday, Oct. 29, 7:00- 8:30 PM at Murray UU Church in Attleboro. Mass. Power Forward's "Environmental Justice and Local Training" – Nov. 7 at First Parish Norwell (Date conflicts with PRIDE event at our church.)

- c. Social Services in the Bridgewater Area brochure – being well received by area clergy. Fran Jeffries had suggested an update: to add the Literacy Project at BSU. Sonia to send me details.

10. It was voted to change the future meeting times to 7:30. This will start in November.

11. Sonia showed us the Annual Report from BAMSI in which we are listed as corporate donors because of our Dec. Share the Plate donations.

12. On Oct. 2, Rachel attended a meeting in Brockton of the Coalition for Social Justice (CSJ), a part of the Raise Up Mass coalition. CSJ staff gave a workshop on a proposed "progressive revenue package" which will be introduced this fall into the state legislature. This will include a commitment to a Fair Share Amendment. They urged participants to contact their state legislators to support the package.

Next SJC meeting will be Thurs., Nov. 7 at 7:30 pm at the cjjurch.