SJC MINUTES FOR SPETEMBER 9, 2021 MEETING

A meeting of the complete Social Justice Committee was held Sept. 9, 2021 on zoom. Present were: Sonia D’Alarcao, Janet Dye, Betty Gilson, Ginger Irish, Susan Irish, Rev. Jennifer Johnson, and Rev. Rachel Tedesco. The following issues were discussed and decided.

1. The bank balance is $4,817.51 0f which $1,255,82 is for *Read to Me, Father* and $131.00 is for RE Scholarships.
2. BLM films

a. The September28 film will be “All In”, a documentary about Stacy Abrams. It is available on Amazon Prime. We will continue the current protocol of watching from home and discussing on ZOOM on Tues., Sept. 28.

b. The new ZOOM link is <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/8261399470>**.**

c. Need suggestions for following months. May be films about Indigenous people also. We may be able to get suggestions from the BCCR speaker Mon. Sept. 13 at the BPL, Dr. Joyce Rain Anderson.

d. When we will be back to in-person will be based on decisions of the church COVID Task Force. (For this information check the weekly messages.) However, for Oct. we still plan to meet on ZOOM. Reconsider for Nov. at Oct. meeting.

1. Plate suggestions

a. Oct. is BIC.

b. Nov. will be Guest at Your Table. Rev. Jennifer is leading the worship service on Nov. 21, so the SJC will help as needed.

c. After discussion it was decided that the Dec. selection should be the UUA Disaster Relief Fund to be used to help those impacted by the hurricanes, Afghanistan and other recent disasters.

1. MainSpring and Evelyn House lunches continue to be made with the same protocol. They are made at home, brought to Betty Gilson’s house, and delivered from there to the two shelters. Next ones will be prepared for Thurs., Oct. 7.
2. Report from the Green Sanctuary
3. Ginger reminded us of the Metal Recycling Drive which will be held at the church Oct. 2. Money raised will be donated to the Bridgewater Food Pantry.
4. The committee will lead two services including a spring one for *Kids to Camp.*
5. They will be updating messages about the church green policies for recycle and reuse as well as using regular dishes and silverware.
6. They continue to write a monthly article for the *Bridging.*
7. The committee is researching companies to recycle CDs and DVD’s since their former one is no longer in business.
8. The Peace committee will lead the Sept. 19 service in conjunction with the United Nations International Day of Peace.

a. The theme will be *How Do We Become Messengers of Peace in Our Own Community.*

b. We will start at the Peace Pole at 10:00 am with Fran Jeffries doing a brief ceremony in conjunction with a weeklong Peace event for the community.

c. Members of the Peace Committee will present readings from various Messengers of Peace.

d. There was a question about whether the Peace pole program could be on ZOOM. The church equipment could not accommodate this, so Janet will check with local cable abut showing it.

1. Report from Rachel Tedesco:
2. Events I’ve been involved with since our SJC retreat on July 7:
3. First Annual Juneteenth Planning Committee’s July 20 Zoom meeting. The meeting’s focus was a post-Juneteenth assessment. Members overall were happy with the event, including the turnout of an estimated 300 people. Kudos to David Wilson for his great event organizing. The only negative issue was the denial of CERT volunteer services by the Bridgewater Fire Chief and CERT Coordinator. Some planning committee members who are from Bridgewater (which I am not) will be meeting with their town councilors on Sept. 30 to discuss this issue. The first regular meeting of the committee was planned for Saturday, Oct. 2 – outdoors at a member’s home.
4. Mass Peace Action’s South Shore gathering on August 22. This took place at Pat McSweeney’s backyard in Taunton. The purpose was to get together local peace activists to discuss the organization’s planning for the future. That’s where I met up with Fran Jeffries, who wants to have a peace event at our church on Sept. 19, for the U.N. International Day of Peace. This will happen at the outdoor peace pole before the Peace Committee’s annual worship service.
5. Bridgewater Council for Civil Rights (BCCR) Standout in Bridgewater Center on Aug. 28. I attended the standout along with Sam and Deb Baumgarten. I held a BLM sign and we got many honks and waves from passing cars.
6. The Greater Bridgewater Interfaith Council (GBIC), sponsored by the Division of Student Affairs at BSU. (a) I attended the Sept. 1 Zoom meeting of the GBIC. We met the new division director and planned for the “Engage BSU - Involvement Fair” (aka “Student Activities Fair”) on Monday, Sept. 6; (b) I volunteered to be at the GBIC table at the fair, representing the council of churches in general and First Parish UU – Bridgewater in particular. Others at our table were Eileen Estudante, Director of Student Outreach and Special Programs at BSU, Rev. Tim Atwater, the new pastor at the Bridgewater United Methodist Church, and a UMC church volunteer. The fair was held outdoors in the Rondileau Student Union (RSU) Fountain Area. I talked to the students who stopped by and passed out some of our colorful social justice buttons and a few UU pamphlets.
7. Future events some on the committee may be interested in attending:
8. Mass Peace Action Annual Celebration – Saturday, Sept. 18, 4-7 p.m. Both in-person at First Church in Cambridge and virtual.
9. UU the Vote Squad Birthday Party – Sept. 19 at 4 p.m. A virtual event for this national organization.
10. UU Mass Action Celebration – October 14. (6:30 – 8 p.m.) A celebration of Laura Wagner’s 7 years as the UUMA Director. I plan to attend since I’ve been very impressed by her performance.
11. If anyone is interested in attending any of these events, I can forward information to you by email.

8. Other business

a. SJC will help with the GAYT service in November

b. Janet reported on two other events.

1. A Program of Remembrance for 9/11 will be held at the Bridgewater Public Library on Friday Sept. 10 at 10:30 am.

2. BCCR is presenting a program *They Took Our Children* presented by Dr. Joyce Rain Anderson at on Mon., Sept. 13 from 6:30 – 7:45 pm at the Bridgewater Public Library This is about Indigenous children forcibly taken from their homes to be stripped of their culture.

9. The next meeting will be on Thurs., Oct. 7 at 7:00 pm on Zoom at this link.

[https://uuma.zoom.us/j/8261399470](https://fpuubridgewater.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=4784d913aa78f9b4904df5acd&id=6e076fe61f&e=698e3d8c6c)

Or via phone: +1 646 876 9923

Meeting ID: 826 139 9470