SJC REPORT FOR APRIL 1, 2021

A meeting of the Social Justice Committee was held Thurs., April via ZOOM. Present were: Sonia D’Alarcao, Betty Gilson, Susan Iris, Laurie Lessner and Rev. Rachel Tedesco. The following issues were discussed and decided.

1. The Bank balance is $4,711.54 , of which $1,255.82 is for *Read to Me ,Father* and $131.00 is for RE scholarships.
2. BLM films
   1. The April film will continue to explore the baseless claim that there are biological differences between the "races." This will be the third and final episode, “The House We Live In”. It is about 57 minutes long with discussion guides available, emphasizing that race is a biological myth. We will discuss this on Tues., April 27. Here is the link.

[**https://mem.intervarsity.org/resources/race-power-illusion-documentary**](https://mem.intervarsity.org/resources/race-power-illusion-documentary)

* 1. The film for May 25 will be A documentary film called, “A Most Beautiful Thing.”  It’s based on a book by Arshay Cooper, and tells the story of an all-black rowing team, formed in a Chicago high school in the 1990’s.  Sam latched onto the book and film because of his interest in rowing, but, as it turns out, rowing is just the vehicle to telling a story about what it’s like to live in the West Side of Chicago, where segregation, poverty, drugs, gangs, and violence rule and—most often—ruin so many lives.  Watching these men tell their stories 20 years later—they came together to row again two years ago—was both heart-wrenching and uplifting.   Of particular interest was an effort by the men to connect with the Chicago Police Department—in an effort to start bridging the divide between the police and the community to promote healing.  This particular story was not part of the book, but was a nice addition to the overall narrative. The film is on You Tube—for $3.95. Some people may be able to stream it another way.

Here is the link.

<https://tinyurl.com/vcxm4be>

Or dial in by phone:   +1 646 876 9923

Meeting ID: 524 750 5733

* 1. There is no film for June, July and August.
  2. It was agreed that for September 28the film will be “All In”, a documentary about Stacy Abrams. It is available on Amazon Prime.

1. Plate selection
   1. April and May will be Kids to Camp through the Green Sanctuary Committee
   2. June will be *Family and Community Resources* in Brockton.
   3. July and August will be MainSpring House lunches.
   4. Sept. will be The Crayon Project which provides schools with boxes of crayons for a large variety of skin tones.
   5. Oct. will be Brockton Interfaith Communit.
   6. Nov. will be the Guest at Your Table project of the UUSC.
   7. Dec. will be a charity for an LGBTQ group selected by the Welcoming Congregation Renewal Committee.
2. MainSpring and Evelyn House lunches were made on Thursday, April 1 using the present protocols of volunteers delivering lunches, beverages and fruit to Betty’s house that day. The May lunches will be on Thursday, May 6.
3. Reports from Green Sanctuary and Peace Vigil Committees
   1. Green Sanctuary
      1. The GS will be in charge of the morning Worship Service on April 18. Featured will be Gerry Wright who re-enacts Frederick Law Olmsted, known as the founder of American landscape architecture and America’s foremost park maker. He will speak live from the sanctuary.
      2. The committee is investigating replacing the church refrigerator. It is old and inefficient. Now that it is not in use is the perfect time to replace it. Besides checking on efficiencies, they will check on possible rebates.
   2. The Peace Committee is preparing a booklet of peace readings and meditations for the spring event. Diane Breen and others are recreating a booklet from years past and adding some new selections. It will probably be ready for Mothers’ Day.
4. Update on Welcoming Congregation Renewal plans
   1. Laurie has scheduled a meeting for Tues., April 13 to restart the committee and work on plans for a service June 13.
   2. At the service April 4 there will be an announcement about the meeting, plans and a request for members.
5. Juneteenth plans
   1. At a March 9 meeting of the Bridgewater Communities for Civil Rights (B.C.C.R.), Rev. Rachel announced that the First Parish Church’s Social Justice Committee would like to rededicate its Black Lives Matter banner on June 19 th in honor of the Juneteenth holiday and asked whether anything was being planned by B.C.C.R. or others in the town that day. People said they weren’t aware of anything but liked the idea. A planning meeting was set for the following week.
   2. On March 17, members of B.C.C.R. and other social justice advocates along with Rachel and David Wilson joined in a Zoom meeting.  The group named itself the 1 st Annual Juneteenth Planning Committee and began outlining steps they needed to take to bring off a successful event. The main task was to pick the best location in terms of safety, access, parking, etc. Tasks were assigned and the group of 9 met again on March 31 to continue planning. David is working on site location, the sound system, local media outreach and musical entertainment. Rachel is working on outreach to the local CVS and Walgreens stores for donations and to town clergy and BSU campus clergy, social justice and diversity offices for their participation. She agreed to talk to her husband David about sources of Black history in the Bridgewaters.
6. Rachel’s other reports
   1. Rachel has sent out information. about UU Mass Action Advocacy Day on April 13 to former attendees. Betty will send out a church APB in hopes of recruiting some other people.
   2. Also, Rachel discussed the incidence of anti-Semitism involving the Duxbury High School Football team. The Rev, Catherine Cullen, minister at the Duxbury U U Church, is working on the committee addressing this issue.
7. Other business
   1. A suggestion had been made about our church becoming a Satellite Church for the Church of the Larger Fellowship Worthy Now program. However, the lowest level is at $750 for 5 memberships. We decided that we should concentrate on recruiting pen pals for now. Some people have volunteered for that but haven’t heard back. Betty will contact Beth Murray to follow up on. that.
   2. Sonia felt strongly that the SJC should issue a statement about the upsurge in anti-Asian racism. The committee agreed. Sonia will prepare a statement and include information about Bystander Training focusing on this issue. It could be placed on out Private Facebook page. She will check with Laurie about the Parish Committee position for placing it on the public Facebook page.
8. The next meeting will be on Thurs., May 6, 2021 at 7:00 pm on ZOOM.