

SJC MINUTES FOR APRIL 7, 2022

A meeting of the First Parish Social Justice Committee was held on zoom April 7, 2022. Present were: Sonia D'Alarcao, Betty Gilson, Laurie Lessner, Rev. Rachel Tedesco and Lisa Troy. The following issues were discussed and decided.

1. Bank balance is \$5,106.74. Of the total \$1,255.82 is for *Read to Me, Father* and \$131.00 is for RE scholarships.
 - a. The Bridgewater Savings Bank, which is where the account has been, is now Bluestone Bank.
 - b. The bank no longer uses bank books, but sends out monthly statements showing any activity including the interest. In lieu of the bank book Betty is keeping the monthly statements, deposit slips and withdrawal slips in a three ring notebook.
2. BLM films
 - a. For April the film is *Let the World See*. This is a 3 part series which can be seen on Hulu and abc.com. It is a fresh and deep examination of Mamie Till-Mobley's fight to bring her son's body home to Chicago after his brutal murder, and her pivotal yet heartbreaking decision to have an open-casket funeral for the public to see. The discussion will be on Tues., April 26 at 7:00 pm on zoom.
 - b. Film for May is from The Upstander group which produced *Bounty*. It has also done a film *Dawnland*. This Emmy® winning documentary film is on stolen children and cultural survival. It tells of the first government-sanctioned truth and reconciliation commission in the U.S. which investigates the impact of Maine's child welfare practices on Native American communities. It is available by registering at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dawnland-bounty-live-online-film-screening-and-qa-tickets-293380889137?aff=cal> It will be shown on May 5 and the discussion will be on Tues., May 24 at 7:00 pm on zoom. The SJC will make a donation for the viewing.
 - c. There are no films in June, July and August, but committee members are requested to offer suggestions for the next season.
3. Plate selections
 - a. The months of April and May are for Kids to Camp.
 - b. June will be for The Wandering Heart Project. This is a charity based in Bridgewater and Franklin which aims to insure foster and homeless children of all ages in Massachusetts have access to essentials and clothing. RE will be filling a special Love Box during the next few months for the project.
 - c. July and August are for Father Bill's and MainSpring House.
 - d. Rachel has created a spread sheet to keep a record of all the plate donations, listing recipients and amounts. She is sending this to committee members.
4. MainSpring and Evelyn House lunches will continue with the same protocol, leaving lunch materials at the home of Betty Gilson by 8:45 am on Thurs., May 5.

5. Green Sanctuary Committee report
 - a. The Green Sanctuary will conduct the April 24 service, titled “What Choice Do I Have?”, focused on ethical eating.
 - b. No update on the Crayon Project https://www.crazycrayons.com/recycle-program/?fbclid=IwAR1IHgpg0DsOJiMD6_rZcjBsC2b35u7pJV_nzAAc6AaQ6grg7WVNjQbcoXdU.
 - c. Lisa mentioned that the committee members are working very hard and are in need of other members to help with all they do. We need to find some ways to attract new members to all SJC branches, perhaps on an ad hoc basis.

6. The Peace Committee report
 - a. The Peace Committee together with the SJC planned a Rally for Ukraine for Sunday, March 27. We partnered with Laurene Powers of BCCR and the Rotary of the Bridgewater to organize the gathering on the Bridgewater Common at 1:00 pm.
 - b. Over 50 people attended, at least 16 from First Parish. Several towns and organizations were represented. Rev. Jennifer Johnson from First Parish and Fran Jeffries of Rotary spoke in introduction. Steve Powers also played the Ukrainian National anthem. Donations of \$176.00 were collected to be divided between Rotary of Ukraine and Doctors without Borders. Some medical supplies were collected to be distributed by the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Jamaica Plain.

7. Juneteenth
 - a. SJC will be donating \$150 from its bank account to help with the expenses.
 - b. A Bake Sale will be held on Sunday, April 10, after morning worship. Proceeds will be donated to the Juneteenth Fund.
 - c. Rachel reported that BSU was demanding all volunteers pass both CORI and SORI background checks before participating. The Juneteenth Planning Committee felt that was unreasonable and burdensome. Therefore, the site of the event has been moved to First Parish. It will be held on June 18 so it doesn’t conflict with the last regular Sunday Service of the season at the church.
 - d. Members of the Planning Committee met with the Town Manager and Asst. Town Manager on March 31 to discuss the event on June 18. The town agreed to close School Street to traffic from the Cedar St. corner down to Summer Street. We discussed the Board of Health’s porta-potty requirements, one per 25 attendees, which seemed excessive in terms of rental costs and space needs.

8. Proposed 8th principle
 - a. Laurie said that action is being planned.
 - b. We may use the action model that the Franklin Church has successfully employed.

9. Donations for special collections and messages
 - a. A special collection for Ukraine for CARE.org was taken at the February 27 at the morning worship service. The amount raised was \$487.00. Members also donated directly to Care.org online.
 - b. A special collection for the Trevor Project was taken March 27th service in conjunction with Trans Visibility Day.

10. Report from Rev. Rachel Tedesco
 - a. Rachel has been working with **the Coalition for Social Justice** on the Fair Share Amendment. This is aimed at creating a state constitutional amendment to raise taxes on personal incomes over a million dollars a year. The money will be used to improve public education and transportation.
 - b. She will be attending UU Advocacy Day on April 12 virtually and working on prison reform issues. She has already met virtually with a Legislative Aide on Sen. Timilty's staff to address the issue of free phone calls for prisoners.

11. Other business
 - a. There will be a Rally at Moderna's shareholders' meeting on April 28 at 5:00 pm in Galaxy Park, Cambridge, MA (Kendall Square). The purpose is to pressure Moderna to share their technology so places like Africa and other low income countries can produce their own vaccines. Betty will send out an APB to let the congregation know about this event.
 - b. The Welcoming Renewal Committee will be hosting a 90 – 120 minute workshop on Wednesday, April 13 at 6:30 on zoom. It will focus on trans micro-aggressions, how to be an ally, and realize and articulate your personal stakes in trans liberation. There is a \$250 fee which will be paid by the SJC. Laurie will create a flyer and send it to Betty for distribution.

Next meeting will be Thurs., May 5 at 7:00 pm on the church zoom link.

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/8261399470>

Or via phone: +1 646 876 9923

Meeting ID: 826 139 9470