

Social Justice Meeting Minutes October 11, 2021

Participants:

Teri Bates; Catherine Eckert; Irene Gibson; Tony Giordano; Anne Houle; Sara Klepner; Pat Miller; Vanessa Merhi; Nicole Schultz; Ann Sherwood; Judy Stevens

Champion Reports:

CROP Walk: Vanessa expressed appreciation for the generous donors and great team working behind the scenes to support the CROP Walk. As we are still short of our stated goal, a request was made for more monetary donations that can be received until the end of the year, as well as for more food donations prior to October 17.

UUFA: Judy discussed the petition going to Gov. Murphy to ban a proposed law allowing police to review body camera footage before submitting written reports. (S3939/A5864) Meeting participants were also reminded about the Fall Issues Conference on Saturday Oct. 16.

Jubilee Update: Ann reviewed the wonderful materials Nicole created to promote the training November 12-14th. The group also discussed how to encourage strong representation from UUCMC Leadership at the training. We are awaiting clarification from Paula Cole Jones regarding the specific nature of our obligations, financial or non-financial, as "sponsors" of the training.

Reparations Common Read: Teri shared an overview regarding a series of conversations about "The Social Life of DNA: Race, Reparations, and Reconciliation After the Genome" by Alondra Nelson that will start in November, and continue for 8 sessions concluding in March.

NJ Together Coalition: Tony informed the group that "listening sessions" have started, including last Tuesday's Dialog focused on "listening" to approximately 6-7 participants. UUCMC has committed to solicit feedback from 90 people. The purpose of the listening sessions is to identify issues of concern shared by members of our community, and then to identify specific ones for which we can bring our collective, community-wide resources to bear to address the problems. There is also a UUCMC Service on the 24th with "coffee hour" afterwards providing another opportunity for "listening" to participants sharing local and county level concerns.

Tuesday Evening Dialog: Ann cited two upcoming dialogs of interest: October 19th at 7pm - "Election 2021. What's New? What's Different?" focusing on voting questions and potential concerns for the upcoming election, and November 2nd at 7pm - "Environmental Justice in NJ"

Deep in Color/Voice of Black Experience: Programming resumes on Sunday, Nov 7 at 6pm with the first in a 3-part series of discussions on reparations for African Americans. Nicole will create a flyer. At the session, the Nov 12-14th Jubilee Anti-Racism training can also be promoted

Social Justice Meeting Minutes October 11, 2021

Climate Action: Pat provided the following updates:

1. The first meeting took place October 4th with 11 attendees.
2. The Climate Ribbon Ceremony has been postponed until Spring.
3. Next Meeting is scheduled for Nov 1 at 7pm.
4. The topic for the next Dialog on November 2nd will be Environmental Justice in New Jersey.

Voting Rights - Democracy Action Team: Tony reiterated the importance of notifying our Senators to support the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. Letter writing links for notification are in the UUCMC Eblast.

Next Meeting: November 8th at 7pm

Adjournment