

Minutes of the Social Justice Council

February 24, 2024

People present: Linda Stoller(chair), Anne Burnham, Trude Diamond, Bob Hedlund (treasurer), Marlene Calderone, Christina Bellamy, Carol Hamilton, Maryann Hamilton, Rev. Amy

The minutes of the January meeting were accepted.

[Note: some of the info for these minutes was taken from AI, blue highlighting could not be removed.]

Committee Reports:

Racial Justice reported by Trude Diamond: We were notified of events supporting Black-owned businesses and cultural events at the Woodson Center. The *Resilience & Revolution: An Immersion of Black Americana* art exhibit will continue at the Woodson through March. We may get a group together for a lunch-and-art afternoon. Some of us attended Rev. Amy's second workshop on resisting White Christian Nationalism. Planning is going well for Arts Unite Us on March 16 at UUC. A group of seven of us are going to the Motherland Music Festival, April 20, Williams Park in St Pete, 6-10 PM. General admission tickets can be purchased [here](#).

Environmental Justice reported by Christina Bellamy and Anne Burnham. The committee is continuing to review solar options. Meanwhile Roger is following up with getting UUC on the Duke energy solar program. The committee is doing some earth day events on April 14th. There are many ideas so the committee is meeting again to firm up ideas.

FAST reported by Linda Stoller. There will be a UUC FAST Network lunch and meeting on March 17th after the service. At the meeting we will be giving an update of the FAST issues and choose folks to call to invite them to the Nehemiah. The FAST Rally is April 4th and the Nehemiah Action is April 30th.

NAMI reported by Christina Bellamy. As most of you know, we brought NAMI in to do a family support group last September, and we've been doing them the second Wednesday noon to 1:30 every month since. It's a godsend of information, support resources, reassurance, other people telling and sharing their stories.

The second NAMI opportunity was offered to us because they've been so pleased at the support that we have given NAMI Pinellas.

They're starting a class on February 29th, which is a Thursday from noon to two every week for eight weeks, totally free. The class is called family to family, and it's a national offering vetted all over the place. Good information about everything you'd ever want to know about mental illness, legal, medical, educational workplace issues, family issues. It's a very, very good class, and you get a free manual.

Mary Ann reported on Interfaith Tampa Bay. She mentioned that it is time to pay dues. Linda said it could come out of SJ budget if it isn't too much. Maryann and Linda will discuss this further. Maryann thanked the group for the large donation to Abrahamic Reunion and mentioned the work they are doing. She also discussed a prayer vigil on Feb. 27th in Straub park.

Anne Burnham reported that she has officially resigned as the point person of Compassion & Choices although she is still available to answer people's questions.

Christina Reported about RMWI. They wondered if they could meet at UUC in the future. They are thinking of expanding into the north part of Pinellas. Linda suggested that their might be a way that they can work with our Refugee Committee and the garden project. Christina said she would talk with Barbara Foley and Cibby.

Refugee Committee: Barb Foley had sent in a report that one of the refugee families had an old bed with the coils coming out. The refugee fund paid for a new bed for the parents in the family.

SJC - Treasurer & Communications

- We received Thank You letters from Hope Villages of America and Feeding Tampa Bay.
- 2023 tax reporting information was sent by Hope Villages of America (\$760.17) and Feeding Tampa Bay (\$1610.00), and has been given to the treasurer/accountant.
- Let's confirm our March outreach recipient: [Elevated Access](#): Volunteer pilots transport passengers at no cost to access the healthcare they need. By September, 2023, the 1300+ pilots had completed 400 flights for passengers who had made the appointment through 80 partner organizations.

New and continuing Programs

Anne Burnham reported on the visit to HEP. It was very well received by those attending. Anne will set up a meeting with the HEP volunteer coordinator and Linda and Rev. Amy to discuss how UUC might support HEP in the future.

Linda Stoller reported on the Voter Project. We will be having a postcard writing program again this year. Our target group is Hispanics in the Clearwater area.

Linda Stoller reported that we will be hanging a banner next to the Black Lives Matter Banner that says Hate has No Home Here on February after the service. Rev. Amy will say a few words. Linda will send out press releases about the action.

Social Justice Calendar

Carol Hamilton will continue to update the Calendar. We decided that in order to control the size of the document only UUC social justice events and outside events where UUC social justice teams were organizing members to attend would go in the calendar.

Next meeting is March 23rd at 9:30 on zoom.

[Linda Stoller]

