

## Minutes of Social Justice Council- January 27, 2024

### New and Continuing Issues

Linda Stoller will copy Carol's blurbs for events from the calendar and put them into Facebook as an event.

- White Christian Nationalism Workshops coming up on February 4 and March 3. Notices are in the Octagon
- Trip to HEP Wednesday, Feb.21, 2 PM - Anne Burnham
  - Linda will follow up with Mary Curry & Jan (covenant groups coordinators) about visiting HEP so the groups may develop ideas individual groups could do, or all groups pitch in together to do, to support one or more HEP programs. Note: For the last several years, SJC has been donating \$1000 to from the Better World Emergency Fund.
  - Details on the tour:
    - 45 min- 1 hr. tour
    - large, expanding campus
    - 8 acres, a lot of walking
    - up to 20 for one group, can break into 2 groups if more
    - tour will focus on areas of interest to group, might find volunteer opportunity for UUC
  - This date should go on UUC's calendar as well as Carol H's event list because we'll be carpooling from UUC.
- All Faith's Walk of Peace- Carol Hamilton
  - Register at Pioneer Park at around 1.30, get a name tag. People from different faiths, Rabbi Danielle from Congregation Beth Shalom, the Imam from the Masjid al-Salam in Dunedin, et cetera, making short speeches. There's some music. Dunedin Cares and Clothes for Kids will be collecting donations at that site.
  - Around two o'clock, they start the walk and they go to the mosque on New York Avenue. You can tour the mosque - kind of fun, with snacks and stuff. Everyone continues to the east side of Weaver Park, arriving about 3, 3.15. There's music, a drum circle – the Peace Jam, with peace flags, peace rocks, and so on for the rest of the afternoon.
  - If you can't do the walk, you can drive directly to the mosque and/or Weaver Park.
- Trip to [Hope Spot February 17](#) - Eloise and Barbara Shimer. Presented by Blue-Green Connections and the City of Dunedin. It'll be on our FB page as a posting and an event. The UUC Environmental Justice team will attend.

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- Open issues: February – Trude: Christina Bellamy and Trude will focus on Black History Month, by presenting quotations by famous and lesser known POC, and soliciting participants' responses – how the quotations resonate with their experience
- The Voting Project: Organizations in Pinellas County that are working on voting are getting together to try and organize their activities for this next voting year so that everyone's not doing the same thing, and we're sharing what we're doing, and there's some kind of organization. Part two is happening on February 10<sup>th</sup> at UUC again. I'm going to request that social justice let us use a hundred and fifty dollars from our fund to support this event. It's a full day kind of thing. Another group is supplying the writing pads and pencils and all of that kind of stuff. It's a coalition, and so I thought that we could perhaps, from our budget, put in a hundred and fifty dollars for those two purposes. I'm making that a motion. \* Seconded and passed.
- Shall we host a Drag Queen Bingo fund-raising event in partnership with PFLAG? Yes. Linda will coordinate with PFLAG as to date, promotion in various media, refreshments, and how attendees pay for entry/food/bingo-cards. We should provide security for the campus during the event. Everyone agreed.
  - NOTE: AI did not record the protective woofs of Ginsberg et al at Louise's house.
- International Women's Day, March 8th. In the past we have co-sponsored a social justice presentation at Temple Bth- El. We've been asked if we want to continue to do that. We only have to agree to participate and publicize it to our members, no money donation. Everyone approved.
- Outreach recipients for the rest of the 2022-23 fiscal year:
  - February: Florida Indigenous Alliance
  - March: Elevated Access (pilots fly those needing medical care to resources)
  - April: We Care Family Connections (Black woman owned foster child placement organization)
  - May: Community Tampa Bay (leadership programs to build multi-cultural connections among youth)

### Review of Financial Report for 2023-24 and any proposed changes for 2024-2025

- Bob Hedlund will correct the discrepancies in the financial reports and ensure accurate posting of transactions. Corrections should post in the January financial report.
- FAST annual donation from UUC, \$3000: See FAST committee report.
- Better World Fund: Joe pace knows that the posted amounts are incorrect, and they will be corrected when the January accounting is closed.
- Fair Trade Coffee: Barbara and Mark said they did not want to continue that program because they felt that the program was not really that successful. We kept \$500 seed money in it that we could reallocate someplace else, like just move it into the in and out (acct # 2301), to give us some flexibility.
- The Pat McGibbon Estate Fund: We will hold off on that until we go to HEP and see if there's something HEP is doing that might be an appropriate, program for us to get

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involved in and contribute some of that Pat McGibbon estate, which had no directed use attached to it.

- Social Justice Council will reevaluate the budget allocation and financial planning in light of potential budget constraints.
- Linda Stoller will request a check for the rest of the FAST money and zero out the budget.
- Linda Stoller will present the request for the same budget for outreach and FAST, with elimination of the BLM budget to the board.
- Thoughts on using up the remaining SJC money by June, 2024, not decided today. Options suggested pending updates on the organizations' new management, programs, effectiveness:
  - Possibly to support the Drag Queen Bingo fundraiser
  - UU Social Justice Florida (in Tallahassee)
  - Environmental justice issues that arise, like Earth Day and others that Eliseo becomes aware of (in his role as Gulf Coast Environment and Clean Energy Manager for the Gulf Coast of Florida)

### Committee Reports

#### 1. Racial Justice

- UUC had a robust MLK Day weekend, with One City Chorus's "How We Doing, Dr King?" performance on Saturday, ROD the Artist speaking on Sunday, and 10 volunteers for the NAACP Clearwater Branch activities on Monday, Jan. 15.
- For February, Christina and Trude will facilitate Open Issues on the 25th (fourth Sunday), inviting participants to share how quotations from well- and lesser-known Black thinkers resonate with their own experience.
- For March: Arts Unite Us will have musicians and artists we've never had before, introduced by some of our previous artists. Green Book Tampa Bay can't participate this time, but other friends of AUU are stepping up. I'll ask Eliseo to participate in promotion placement, and our music performers are the minister and music director of First Unity Spiritual Campus in St Pete, who will promote AUU through their email and online resources. Creative Pinellas Ketsy Ruiz is helping to contact potential visual artists. We'll have a food truck again, too. Next week, I'll contact all previous volunteers to save the date and choose which kind of fun they want to have, and I'll begin promotion in the *Octagram*, UUC social media, and external resources in mid-February.
- We will eliminate the BLM budget line, since we're not holding Beloved Conversations any longer and the Board is requesting that we all "tighten our belts" in case the upcoming pledge campaign reflects the reduced membership. If Racial Justice needs to respond to an emergency need, we can request an amount from the SJC budget or from the Board.

2. Refugees - There are still a few refugee families though there are no longer the ESOL classes. However, the committee would like to continue, not touch this money right now, but use the money to support these four refugee families that they're working with. What they have found is that even though these families are able to pay their rent, lots of times they'll run out of money at the end of the month for food because their food stamps run out or their money runs out.

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3. FAST- Linda will present SJC position to the Board, since this is a UUC Board-determined commitment that SJC just monitors. *Recommendation:* Maintain current FAST donation unless UUC's budget decreases, in which case, reduce the FAST donation proportionately.
  
4. Compassion and Choices -No report
  
5. LULAC
  - LULAC is launching a campaign to get Hispanic voters out for the March 19 election coming up for Clearwater. We just put out the slogan, Si No Votan, "if you do not vote, they'll kick us out." In Clearwater more than 50% of the Mexicans are capable of voting, but only a small percentage register. They're under 30 years old, the demographics. Millennials, and they are very susceptible to the digital advertisement and promotional things. So the slogan, Si no vota Nos Votan, is directly aimed at them. And then we're going to be doing some digital mass media pointed to them in Clearwater.
  - School board candidates forum at the African-American Museum on Marshall Street. That's at three o'clock today, and that's out for our school board. We still have time, school board elections happening later on in the year.
  - There are other city candidates forum also on Saturday, February 3. Eliseo will post it in our Facebook page
  - CLEO is an organization of young people. We had 300 to 400 college students and high school students from Florida to advocate for environmental clean energy type of events.
  - A new group here in Pinellas County called ONOL, which is 12 Hispanic leaders. We sponsored the Hispanic heritage event that happened at Chris Lake park this last October, in which we had over 3000 participants. The City of Clearwater is offering us Coachman park this coming October, and we're looking at projecting anywhere from 5,000 to 10,000 people to be there. Let's consider earmarking a couple hundred dollars in the next budget to put an advertisement to promote our congregation there.
  - Yesterday, the Hispanic Women's Coalition had a meeting in Surti hall. So I just want to say that that's part of what we are also advocating as a social justice. We're allowing groups to come in and use our facility. And they're very grateful and they're very thankful. They wanted me to express a thank you to the Social Justice Council for that.
  
6. Environmental Justice
  - April 14th, we're going to be, we're working on an environmental justice fair, which is the Sunday before the Earth Day. Eloise will post in the eOctogram for people to suggest things. We approved \$26 for an organizer kit for Earth Fest.
  - Planning trips to Sacred Lands, participating in trash cleanup, and Open Issues in April.

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- The Board voted to participate in Clean Energy Connect, the temporary program where we connect to Duke Energy's solar panel grid. We can pull out of the program at any point without any penalty. There should be a very nominal cost to it. If it proves to be otherwise, we can back out. But it should be good for our green sanctuary program. In the January meeting, it passed 7-2, with one abstaining. It should be taking place ASAP. Thanks to Roger for his research that revealed that solar panels are too expensive to be feasible at this point. That's to be revisited and technology improves and costs decrease. We can still do the Duke Energy program and then switch
  - Eliseo suggested a field trip to the only congregation in Pinellas County that has done a massive solar similar to what we're looking at doing here. And that's a Trinity Trinity Church, a trinity Presbyterian Church. And I think that we need to go there and find out what they, what, you know, what their results were or what their issues are.
7. NAMI - New NAMI class that's coming up on Thursday, February 8th, Thursdays, February 8th through March 20th. It's a four week class at UUC, called Family to Family. It's kind of a guidebook as to how to help and support where to go, what to say, what you can say, what you can't say to their physicians, et cetera.
  8. Interfaith Tampa Bay – On the 14th, we had the Interfaith Service for MLK. And it was very well attended. I put all the details in the chat. Cathy Castor Kathy Kastner was one of the greeters. Maryanne let her district director, Marsha, know that we would support Kathy in her efforts in Washington, any way we could.

### **Social Justice calendar any additions?**

9. Anne Burnham will send out information about the Supreme Court oral arguments watch party, 9 to 11 on February 7.
10. Carol will add the Garden of Ridvan picnic (a community picnic that's being sponsored by the Baha'i people) to the calendar.

[Trude Diamond, from AI]