

**Social Justice Council Monthly Meeting
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church
Meeting Minutes, Thursday, December 4, 2008
7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.**

Present: Michael Benefiel, Nancy Derr, Betsy Devlin-Foltz, Marge Dimond, Karen Gozner, Nancy Janssen, Heather Janules, Pat Karlsen, Connie Nissley, Annette Scarpitta, Kay [Cay] Scott, Sandy Shaw, Helen Strang, Becky White

Proceedings:

- Meeting was called to order at 7:30 by Betsy Devlin-Foltz.
 - Heather read a moving poem about the joys of being alive
 - Michael commented on the tragedy in Mumbai, which especially touched him after his 4 years working there. He has been in contact with friends, and they have welcomed his concern and worry.
 - We shared the experience of seeing the moon, Jupiter, and Venus appearing together the other night
 - Everyone enjoyed the cover of the New Yorker that Pat brought in to share

- General Business
 - Betsy followed up with a report on the progress being made on the workshop. She handed out the draft agenda and reviewed the high points of her conversations with the facilitators. Substantial discussion followed. Everyone is very excited about how well the workshop is coming together.
 - Nancy Janssen provided an update on registration and encouraged everyone to join her on Sundays in the lounge. All registered will be able to participate in a drawing; the winnings will be donated to the winner's charity choice.
 - Sandy and Helen reported on the food. Helen's son, a professional cook will be helping with the food, and Sandy will also be cooking; mention was made of vegetarian lasagna, chili, and a wonderful winter soup.
 - The decision was made to reserve CL's regular child care person for 3 hours on Friday night and 3 hours on Saturday morning.
 - To continue planning, the regular January meeting was moved from the 8th to the 6th of January

- Subcommittee Reports
 - Connie Nissley noted briefly that nothing special was to report in the financial department. The remaining SJC commitments would be paid in early 2009
 - Sandy reported that \$771.23 was raised for Beacon House at the 50/50 Sunday service collection in November. The December 50/50 Sunday service collection (on Dec 14) would go to the Kakenya School. He will bring his list of proposed charities for the remainder of the year to the next meeting.
 - Betsy reminded the council that the forum on January 4 is one opportunity for Cedar Laners to provide feedback on the draft Peacemaking Statement of Conscience. Denominational Affairs Committee may create other opportunities before we need to respond to the UUA on February 1.
 - Annette reported that the Alternative giving project is up and running as of mid November. Donations seem to be a bit slow, but it is still early.
 - Nancy Janssen noted that Nancy Floreen would like to make a report on the local Habitat for Humanity project at one of our next meetings. We hope Nancy F. will join us at the Empowerment Workshop; she would be able to reach a broader audience there.

- The SJC would like Marge Dimond to report at some point on the great success of the LGBT in its ability to organize and achieve its goals. The group has been extremely successful and always has lots of energy.
- Marge Dimond updated the group on 5 upcoming LGBT activities.
 - **Jan 8:** Dana Beyer will be presenting to the Alliance on transgender issues and the legislative session in Maryland.
 - **Jan 18:** Pam Gerhke has arranged for Brother Daayle, a member of the gay Muslim community, to share his story at the Forum (between the services).
 - **Feb 1:** Roger will be holding an LGBT worship service and talking about the legislative session in Maryland. The 50/50 Sunday collection will be designated for Equality Maryland.
 - **Feb 2** is lobby day in Maryland. As last year, CL is organizing a bus to go to Annapolis. There was wonderful energy last year; everyone wants to build on that this year.
 - **April 18:** Archeen is organizing an LGBT youth summit. There will be more on that event as the date approaches.
- The next meeting of the SJC is Tuesday, January 6, in anticipation of the Empowerment Workshop, beginning on Friday the 9th.
- Betsy adjourned the meeting at 9:30.
- Action items: (Mike assigned himself the following action items)
 - Mike promised to see if the 3/2007 edition of the Social Justice Empowerment Workshop handbook had been updated and report back.
 - Mike promised to invite JPD's Rev. Dr. Om Prakash John Gilmore, Director for Racial & Social Justice, to join us on Jan. 9-10 for our workshop.
 - Mike promised to add an invitation to the New Orleans service trip, Feb. 8-14, to our Social Justice e-bulletin next week.
 - Mike promised to work with Marge Dimond and our LGBT Task Force to contract for a charter bus to carry us from Cedar Lane to Annapolis on Feb. 2.
 - Mike promised to wear the Lounge Lizard headband and invite all who wander into the donut and coffee area to register and add a flame to their nametag on Sundays in December.
 - Everyone should continue contacting those they know, and don't know, about signing up to attend the Empowerment Workshop

Submitted by

Nancy Derr