

**Social Justice Council Meeting**  
**Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church, Library**  
**Thursday, Sept. 18, 2008, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Michael Benefiel, Kay Scott, Marge Dimond, Annette Scarpitta, Sandy Shaw, Archene Turner, Karen Goozner, Helen Strang, Connie Nissley, Nancy Janssen, Pat Karlsen, Helen Strang, Betsy Devlin-Foltz, Heather Janules.

**Nominating Committee**

Mike announced his resignation as co-chair of SJC (to devote time to his new position as JPD representative to UUSC) and Nancy Janssen's agreement to guide SJC quickly through the process of identifying candidates to fill the officer slots for an election on Oct. 2. The By-Laws indicate that the council was to have elected officers in the summer and the question was raised about whether the new officers would serve for 1.5 years. The council agreed to table this question until later in the year.

**Fostering SJC/Youth connections**

Karen Goozner and Archene Turner had spoken about the interest expressed during the retreat in coordinating with youth. Archene invited members to get to know the youth of the congregation (35 are signed up for 10-12 RE this year!) by joining them as chaperones for the youth social justice related activities being planned for the year and distributed a list of these events. Two not on the list:

- September 27-GWPILPF event with Alison Fisher.
- Nov 7-9 Youth OWL Con in Annapolis (8pm Fri-8am Sun)

She noted that the annual ski trip conflicts with Empowerment Workshop, but Archene suggested that youth who aren't skiing might be encouraged to come.

Archene will send SJC details about specific needs so members can volunteer and encourage others to volunteer.

Karen created a job description about the project related to gathering information about the history and current social justice activities at Cedar Lane and will put it on Facebook.

**Social Justice Empowerment Workshop:** Dates confirmed are Fri. Jan. 9 to Sun. Jan. 11.

Facilitators from UUA are Revs. Cole, McDonald. Helen and Mike have been in touch with Boston and are waiting for more information about the details of the workshop. They will propose a communication strategy, and other specific tasks that need to be done to prepare for and pull off the workshop and will share them at the October meeting.

In the meantime, Betsy will make a "save the date" flyer after sending some ideas for titles around to the council and inviting email feedback.

SJC members were invited to say whom they would contact on the board (**the list disappeared-if you picked it up by mistake please put it in the SJC mailbox and let Helen and Mike know you have it.**)

All were encouraged to be talking up the workshop (including the sex, oil companies, and togas) in committees, dinner groups, task forces and other groups they are connected to at Cedar Lane. The following people agreed to contact these groups. More to come:

- RE Council & Global Task Force-Annette Scarpitta
- LGBT Task Force- Marge
- Environmental Task Force-Connie
- Alliance-Mike
- Dinner Groups—Kay Scott

The following list of topics was included in the materials we received from Boston. All are encouraged to send Helen their top three preferences for what we should cover in the workshop:

- Reflect and discuss with workshop participants about how to help make the social justice program more spiritually grounded in UU values.
- Help participants develop a vision of their congregation's potential to be a strong social justice force in their community and then act on that vision.
- Discuss and assess the current status of the congregation's social justice program. This involves determining the strengths of the program and what needs to be improved.
- Show participants how they can put their faith into action through service, education, witnessing, advocacy, and community organizing justice work.
- Provide methods for how to integrate the social justice program into the larger life of the congregation including worship, religious education, and adult programming.
- Encourage the congregation to take on timely projects that are grounded in UU values, tap the congregation's talents, and are accountable to marginal members of the local community.
- Help participants strategize how they will increase the number of people involved in the social justice program.
- Celebrate the congregation's social justice history.
- Have breakout time for small groups to develop proposal reports that address the workshop goals and follow-up for their implementation.
- Provide information about the resources of other UUA social change organizations, especially funding possibilities.
- By the end of the workshop, help participants create a follow-up plan for next steps.

### **Coordinating Social Justice Practice at Cedar Lane**

Betsy reported on meetings with Heather and Roger to discuss integrating social justice into the Sunday services. Roger is responsible for the preaching schedule, which he shared with Betsy, Mike and Helen. It is very full, but he is interested in a service on Peacemaking and in coordinating follow-up action with SJC to any sermons that are planned on SJ topics.

### **New Business**

- UU Green Sanctuary Oct 4 9am -3pm
- Betsy shared some thoughts on a "Social Justice Fair" in the lounge after services on one Sunday in the fall combined with an invitation for the congregation to share on a "Graffiti Wall" information and ideas about social justice at Cedar Lane past, present

and future. She will give it additional thought to the idea and bring it to the next meeting.