

**Minutes of Social Justice Council Meeting
Cedar Lane Library
Thursday, June 3, 7:30**

The meeting began with a reading and chalice lighting.

Financial Report

As it was the last meeting of the fiscal year, the Council started with the financial report. Connie Nissley, Treasurer, estimated that once all requests are in there will be balances in some line items for a total of about \$1,450. See below for the discussion of how SJC decided to use this balance.

International Concerns

Annette Scarpitta from the International Concerns Coalition (ICC) joined the meeting to discuss disposition of the \$100 remaining in their line item. Two organizations were under consideration by ICC for the use of these funds: Friends of Chernobyl Centers US (FOCCUS) and Pueblo a Pueblo, an organization that works in the highlands of Guatemala. Given the emergency resulting from the hurricane in Guatemala the previous weekend Don Cleary, who works with FOCCUS, generously deferred to Pueblo a Pueblo. SJC also approved a second emergency collection to benefit Pueblo a Pueblo. (Note: SJC can authorize two “full offering plate” emergency collections per year. The first was held in January and raised funds for Partners in Health’s work in Haiti after the earthquake.) The second collection was quickly scheduled for the Sunday, June 7, during the flower communion service.

Maurer Scholarship

Becky White, who was not in attendance because of a flight cancellation, spoke with Kent Mason after the last SJC meeting and recommended that the scholarship continue if possible. The Council agreed to add the current budget surplus to the SJC Gift Fund (where the remaining Maurer Scholarship funds live) likely bringing the total available to about \$3,800, close to the amount required to cover a year of tuition at Montgomery College. The Council agreed to find out from Kent whether any of the students he interviewed this spring would be qualified and in need of funding to attend Montgomery College next year. If a candidate is available, SJC members will interview him/her and award a scholarship if he/she seems to be an appropriate candidate.

Fundraising will be needed to continue this scholarship beyond next year. A suggestion was made that the name of the scholarship be changed to reflect Cedar Lane’s larger involvement.

Hiroshima Drawings

Marge Dimond reported that the exhibit of drawings, which were sent to All Souls Unitarian from children in Japan after a donation of art supplies after the bombing, is not available for long-term display at other congregations. However, trained docents from All Souls can visit to share the drawings and their story. Marge will approach the worship committee about options for including this in a summer service.

UUSJ

Kay Scott, SJC's representative to UUSJ, shared information about awards available through this regional UU organization. Given the short timeframe to submit nominations (June 30th deadline) SJC decided to consider this opportunity next year.

50/50

Sandy Shaw reported that the 50/50 in May had raised \$504.88 for Beacon House. In related news, the Spring B Coffeehouse, organized by Steve Jones and sponsored by CLARITY, Cedar Lane's anti-racism task force, raised a total of over \$600 for Beyond Borders's work in Haiti, the Highlander Center's grassroots organizing in Appalachia and the South, and Citizens Against State Executions (CASE).

Summer Lizards...

will be low key and *ad hoc*. Any lizard who would like to set up the table is welcome to do so.

SJC End of Year Celebration Dinner July 1, 7:30

In lieu of a business meeting SJC will gather to celebrate a year of work together at Faryab, 4917 Cordell Ave. in Bethesda. Details to follow.

Closing moment of silence

Other Announcements/Reminders

Journey Toward Wholeness meeting, June 11-13, 2010 in Centerville MD. It is FREE of cost with the understanding that attendees will be working on the issues of anti-racism and multiculturalism (www.jpduua.org)

6th Annual JPD Racial Justice Conference, Oct. 16, in Media PA (info also at www.jpduua.org)