

Social Justice at UUCS

Meeting notes: 1-12-2023

Attending:

Denise Dittmar
John Gallant
Rev. Aileen Fitzke
Bonnie Lepoff
John Botts
Mary Matheny
Shelley Tamres

Other contacts and references brought up in addition to the power point include:

Freedom Virginia
Loudoun County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions, Rev. Jean Wright now at Ashby Ponds.
Andrea Mc Gimsey
Alvin Dodson
Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy and its programs/work at Banshee Reeks and Black Oaks, birding, boating, stream counts, Scott Findley, Goose Creek conservation, Joel Goodman who came to RE & talked about butterflies.

Plate nominations for Feb. 2023 and onward at UUCS

After discussion and suggestions, the group seemed to support **dividing the yearly 1/3 plate into four months for each major cause**. These may be assigned to different months, and ideally a speaker or information be given during a service about what the funds are for during that month.

Four Causes Supported by Meeting Participants-

Mobile Hope- helping homeless teens and young adults with shelter, clothing or goods, food, transportation, guidance & empowerment.

Contact: Yvonne Centala

Voting Rights/Allyship— Post-carding and other efforts to encourage voting in underserved areas and populations via UU the Vote/Common Ground and others. (Allyship could include Coming to the Table, NAACP when and if post-carding is fully funded)

Contact: John Gallant, Denise Dittmar

LAWS- Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter. We have supported this cause in the past.

Contacts: Denise Dittmar, (proposed: Bonnie Lepoff, Sharon Coviak).

Environmental/Climate Change— (decisions about whether to choose three or which group or groups still to be made).

Contacts: Proposed contacts—John Botts, Bill Roman, Susan Forth

Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy

Interfaith Power and Light

Loudoun County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions

CCAN- Chesapeake Climate Action Network

Sustainable Loudoun/ 350

OTHER Determinations

Equality Loudoun—Is to be supported as the cause for the Poetry Slam & also by the Membership Committee

These are not supported at this time:

Backpack Coalition

LMI- Leadership Mission International (Honduras, young women in rural areas)

(could have a special Sunday devoted to this cause with a speaker—

Christine Dellecave)

Proposed Calendar (by Denise Dittmar)

February- LAWS

March- Voting Rights/Allyship

April- Environmental

May - Mobile Hope

June- LAWS

July- Voting Rights/Allyship

August- Environmental

Sept- Mobile Hope

Oct- Voting Rights/Allyship

November- LAWS

December- Mobile Hope

January 2024- Environmental

Event reminders & info:

MLK March on 1/16 in Leesburg.

(8 attended: Rev. Aileen, Karl, Trisha, Denise D., Gus, Sharon W., John Botts, & Kathee.)

The Power of Allyship, Starting 1/17, 5 Tuesdays online at 7pm, by Jan Wilson supported by NAACP. Alternatively, Denise offered begin an Allyship Circle at UUCS at a different day and schedule of the same material).

Poetry Slam— the theme ***Love is Love*** was decided by poetry slam planners with donations to go to Equality Loudoun, an LGBTQ rights and support non-profit.

Two grants are being written for by Regie Cabico to the State of Virginia Arts to fund spoken word and art workshops and performance events. There is an outreach being formed with an Art and English teachers at Parkview HS for students to participate. The school is near the church and supports the local community which may be more economically challenged.

Below is the calendar for the Poetry Slam activities:

Love is Love—Poetry Slam Event

In person @ UUCS. March 4, 7-9:30 pm

Art Workshops

In person @ UUCS

Sat. Jan. 28, 2-5 pm Workshop 1

Sat. Feb. 4, 2-5 pm Workshop 2

Online: Weds. Feb. 8

Spoken Word Workshops

In person @ UUCS

Sat. March 4, 2-5 pm Workshop- Adults & Youth

Youth at Parkview HS: TBD

Online: TBD

Youth Spoken Word Showcase

In person @ UUCS

Sat. April 1, 1-2:30pm

Thanks Social Justice Meeting participants. Please sent comments, corrections, or suggestions.

Yours,

Denise Dittmar

Social Justice Coordinator, UUCS