SJC Minutes THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2024

Attendees: Betty Gilson, Rachel Tedesco, AJ Derby, Laurie Lessner, Janet Dye

1. Check in.

2. Bank balance is $5,111.62 of which $834.58 is for *Read to Me, Father* and $131.00 is for R E scholarships.

3. SJC films
    a. For December the film is "The Pain Hustlers". It is based on a true story. Liza dreams of a better life for herself and her daughter. Hired to work for a bankrupt pharmaceutical company, Liza skyrockets with sales and into the high life, putting her in the middle of a federal criminal conspiracy. In this riveting tale of desperation and deceit the 2023 crime drama viewers are taken on a gripping journey through the shadowy world of pharmaceutical startups and opioid racketeering. It is available on Netflix.
    b. Betty said "Geronimo", the November recommendation was wonderful.
    c. We need suggestions for January and February.
        i. For February, AJ suggested Unknown Images of Hiroshima, a documentary of the remaining survivors of the dropping of the bomb, on YouTube
        ii. Betty said we'll all look and try to find something

4. Plate selections
    a. December is BAMSI. It is working with its community partners to establish a first of its kind drop-in center to support the needs of the chronically unhoused.
    b. Also, we are suggesting people individually support the Wandering Heart program. Betty said they accept donations by ordering from their Amazon wishlist.
    c. Suggestions needed for January.
        i. Rachel asked about Mass Peace Action and we'll do that one. They lobby for just causes in the legislature.

5. Lunches
    a. MainSpring and Evelyn House lunches will continue same protocol for Thurs., Jan. 2, 2025.
    b. Conway House lunches will be prepared on Sun., Jan. 12.

6. Green Sanctuary plans
    a. In conjunction with a MassSave initiative for Houses of Worship, an audit of the church was conducted by AGI, an insulation contractor, on Dec. 2. First Parish may qualify for free or low-cost insulation improvements

through this program. Debbie is the liaison; Bob M. assisted her in providing information to the contractor.
   b. Janet talked about getting a mini-split and how it would be so efficient for the upper parish hall. It would save a lot of money and save energy. We already have electric so it would be so much better.
   c. Committee members plan to review and update materials on the church website in the coming months.

7. Peace Committee projects
   a. Members have been doing research. At recent meeting decided to work with Mass Peace Action.
   b. Investigating things to do for Peace and Climate focus. Will meet again soon to compare findings.

8. Welcoming Congregation Committee plans
   a. Betty suggested we look for ideas to protest against the Supreme Court and their rulings against LGBTQ+

9. Read to Me, Father
   a. Two more men have made recordings. - Betty said we'll keep working on allowing the men to do the video recordings but as of now, it's just audio.
   b. One father was released when the judge ruled in his favor.

10. Report from Rev. Rachel
   a. Rachel talked about a lecture she attended about the Ukraine and Russians being able to reach some sort of compromise.
   b. Read about MAPA's position on the Ukraine/Russian war at: https://masspeaceaction.org/our-issues/ukraineatimeforpeace/
   c. Emergency Vigil: Political leaders must pull back from nuclear brink in Ukraine, Saturday, December 7 at 12 noon, outside Park Street Station, Boston
   d. Betty suggested an article in The Atlantic about the Palestinians and Israelis not coming to a solution because the leaders are not in favor of that.
   e. The next lecture, sponsored by Mass Peace Action, is next Monday evening, Dec. 9th. The topic is anti-Palestinian racism in Mass. More information is available online.

11. Other business
   a. Reviewed plans for the table at the Holly Day Faire, including Equal Exchange products. Janet is working on the schedule
   b. We all are helping out with the fair in some manner.

Next meeting will be Thurs., Jan. 2, 2025 at 7:00 pm. Here is the zoom link.

https://uuma.zoom.us/j/8261399470
Meeting ID: 826 139 9470
Passcode: fU78nu
One tap mobile
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