

OLOL Social Justice Minutes June 13, 2024

Present: Patti Sereno Mary Botsford, Terry Falk, Kevin Kane, Emily Kane, Steve Szymanski, Sharon Thyne, John Wolfe, Mary Yank, Sister Lucy, Mike Howden, Pat McKay, Eileen O'Connor

Opening Prayer: Mary Botsford

Financial Update: There is \$4884.64 remaining of the gift left the Social Justice Committee by Mary Jo Canar

Juneteent Film:

Forty people have registered for the event. We expect more will sign up or attend on the evening of the event. Quizzes on Juneteenth will be handed out as people enter. Booklets explaining Juneteenth will be available on the front table. A set of cards of the six African Americans being considered for sainthood will be placed on each table along with opening and closing prayers, and discussion questions. Popcorn and water will be provided. Patti Sereno and John Wolfe have volunteered to arrive at 10:00 AM to set up. Kevin and Mary Botsford will take attendance. Name tags will be available.

St. Ben's during RNC:

Due to concern for their vulnerable clients, St. Ben's will be providing 24-hour care during the Republican National Convention from July 15-18. The convention will be held in the Fiserv Forum, close to St. Ben's. In addition to their regular meal program, St. Ben's cooling room and sleeping accommodations will be available the entire time. They will be providing snacks throughout the day. Due to the extra cost of providing 24-hour care, St. Ben's has asked for support from area parishes. If agreed to by OLOL staff, an appeal will be made to the parish at large. The committee decided to add to the money collected parish wide to bring the total to \$1000. The money will be taken from the Mary Jo Canar memorial fund. Steve has agreed to bring the suggestion of appealing to the entire parish to the OLOL staff and will keep committee members informed of the decision. If the appeal is made to the entire parish, we hope to include the request as a pulpit announcement and in both or either the June 23rd or June 30th bulletin.

All Saints Meal Program:

For June 25th, one person is needed. June 27th has been filled. For July 16th, one person is needed. Six people are needed for July 18th and the two dates in August.

Upcoming Election:

St Matthias is sponsoring an event at Our Lady of Lourdes "Forming Your Conscience," on June 24th and July 22nd regarding the issues facing voters in November. In addition, the SJ Committee will provide voter information on the SJ bulletin board and possibly the floating bulletin board as well. We will consider further possibilities at our September meeting

OLOL Security Update.

Due to security concerns, the building doors will be locked at the start time of the meeting. If members arrive late, they can call Pat and she will go to the door to let the person in.

Open Wide Articles:

June was used for the Juneteenth film. July --Mary Botsford. August – Mary Yank, September – Terry, November – Eileen, December – Steve. October still needs a volunteer.

Announcements:

On the eve of the Republican convention, a **“We All Belong” rally** will be held at Mount Zion Baptist Church on Second and Garfield on Sunday, July 14 from 2:00 - 6:00 pm.

This summer, **Latino Arts** at 1028 south 9th Street will highlight the artwork of students from area schools. The gallery opening reception is on June 21 at 5:00 pm, and will be open Monday through Friday throughout the summer from 10:30 am to 7:30 pm.

A press conference regarding Wisconsin’s practice of sentencing of children as adults will be held on Tuesday, June 18th at 10:00 am at the County Courthouse south entrance between 9th and 10th Streets. There will be speakers and supporter including individuals who were sentenced as children to the adult prison system as well as Wisconsin Justice Initiative, Raise the Age Coalition, the ACLU, and the Sentencing Project. Naturally, the more people who are present, the greater the impact.

The **books on racism** purchased by the Social Justice Committee have been placed on the book shelves in the lobby.

Closing: Prayer for the Homebound

Adjourned: 7:35 pm