

## **RFS Program Team Minutes**

Tuesday, January 09, 2024, 4 pm

**Present:** Annie Guppy, Emily Blair-Stribling, Elaine Hewes, Anne Ferrara, Tony Ferrara, Gary Vencill

**Facilitator:** Annie Guppy

**Scribe:** Anne Ferrara

Annie opened the meeting with a reflection and reading from LOVE THYSELF, the Message from Water by Masaru Emoto. The words that accompanied a particular photo of a frozen water molecule were John Lennon's song, Imagine. The photos Annie shared were stunning.

Minutes from the December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved.

### Evaluation of Past Events

- Women's Circle Potluck gathering was meaningful and delicious
- Tai Chi Class with Mia Kanazawa continues on Mondays and Thursdays, 9 – 11. **Annie will ask Mia to let Brook know the classes can be added to our January calendar.**
- Meditation with Sheila continues on Thursdays at 6 pm. Held on Zoom and in person at times.
- Sketch Group with Daksha, Wednesdays, 4 to 6, is going well.
- Gallery Within Exhibit, "Some Things on the Walls," has begun.
- Advent Spiral, 12/17 at 4 was a meditative, calming, uplifting ritual. Use of the pedestals and cylinders in place of logs worked well, as did the glass vigil lights. Set up had 11 volunteers – it went very smoothly and concluded with coffee, cake and conversation. Tony, Anne and their children and grandchildren disassembled the Spiral and cleaned the sanctuary.

## Coming Events

- MLK, Jr. Memorial celebration will take place on Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm in the Sanctuary. Rob Shetterly wishes to highlight his latest portrait subject, John Alston, who founded the Chester Children's Chorus. Five other Americans Who Tell the Truth will have their portraits present and their biographies read by community members. A video of the Children's Chorus will be shown. **Set up will begin at 3 for those who can help.**
- Richard Ackerman has prepared the agenda for the upcoming retreat, "Building Adult Community," which will be held on Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup> from 8 to 3. Emily is assisting Richard in the planning and presenting. Richard plans to have breakfast goodies and luncheon fare for those persons on the Board and the Program Team and a couple of other invitees who will attend the gathering. **We will ask folks to make a donation so that we can adequately compensate Rich for his time and wisdom.**
- Eco-Spirituality session will be held with Andi Lloyd on Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, at 4 pm. The reading and podcast will be sent out on Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. The conversation will focus on what grounds our hope.

Spring Program: *The Art of Protest: Politics and War*. Pat W. has organized this series that will include an art exhibit: *The Art of Protest: Politics and War*, Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 5 to 7. This exhibit will feature Pat's work from her time of activism during the Iraq War. **She will let us know what help is needed for hanging the exhibit and providing refreshments for the opening.** On Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, at 4 pm, Doug Rawlins, poet, activist, member of Veterans for Peace, will share his experiences, his poetry and slides. There will also be a time for community conversation. On Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm, Rob Shetterly will offer an exhibit and talk on this same topic, *The Art of Protest: Politics and War*. There will be time for community conversation. On Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm, Pat Wheeler will show 2 short videos that she made during her Iraq War activism: *Children in the*

*Time of War and No War, No Warming.* Discussion will follow the video.

Continuing conversations...

- We are asked to think about someone who might be a good fit to write thank you notes for donations given to RFS. Gail Vencill has done it for many years and for that we are deeply grateful. This led into a short discussion about the need to offer gratitude to the folks who have volunteered their time and talents for so many years to RFS. It was suggested that the Board Pot Luck Supper might be an appropriate time to do this.
- We acknowledged once again the need for a grant to be written to allow the Program Team to hire an administrative person.

Added to agenda....

- Tony asked those present for feedback on a blog post he wrote for CAN and RFS about the importance of electing persons who believe in science-based climate policy. Several edits were suggested and **Tony will see that they are made.**
- Tony also let us know that he is meeting with students from College of the Atlantic who were in Dubai at COP28 about sharing their experiences with our RFS community. Date to be decided.
- Tony also shared that CAN is supporting a request for a grant for the Bagaduce Watershed Association to take local students for boat trips on the Bagaduce River – these will be educational experiences for the children as they learn about the indigenous peoples who used the River as their “highway”, as well as the importance of this ecosystem to the health of our area.
- It was reported that a request from Anna Trowbridge to use the Sanctuary for an art fundraiser for the Palestinian Children’s Relief Fund went unread for quite a while. This is another example of the need for improving our internal communications. As it turned

out, Anna and the other GSA graduates planning this event, secured the Blue Hill Coop for their fundraiser. It is taking place on Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup> starting at 11 am.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 4 pm

Facilitator: Anne Ferrara

Scribe:

Minutes respectfully submitted by *Anne Ferrara*