**RFS Program Team Minutes**

Tuesday, August 8th, 2023, 4 pm

Present: Daksha Baumann, Anne Ferrara, Tony Ferrara, Annie Guppy, Elaine Hewes, Sheila Moir, Carol Simanton, Emily Blair-Stribling, Gary Vencill, Patricia Wheeler

Facilitator: Annie Guppy

Scribe: Anne Ferrara

Annie opened the meeting with two poems by Amanda Gorman: *Fury and Faith* and *Closure.*

Minutes of the July 11th meeting were approved.

Evaluation of Past Events

* 7/27, 7 pm. Excellent presentation by Mimi Sheller titled, *Sacred Connections from Downeast Maine to the Caribbean.* 18 persons attended; art exhibit was greatly appreciated; wood sculptures exhibited by Mimi’s husband, Dan, were amazing. Those attending learned so much and enjoyed the Q and A portion, as well.
* 8/06, 4 pm. Women’s Circle. Explored *What’s In Your Tool Kit?* 16 women shared stories, learned from one another, and continued to be a safe and welcoming space for all.
* Meditation: Thursday at 6. Now meeting in person every other week. Continuing on Zoom every other week to accommodate those who live away.
* Tai Chi/Qigong: Mondays and Thursdays, 9 to 11. Summer visitors have swelled the class size. Mia continues to be an amazing teacher and mentor for many.
* Sketch Club: Wednesdays 9 to 11. May be morphing into more than drawing. Life drawing a possibility in the evening. Fabric work also can happen at the same time.
* Gallery Within: Current exhibit with Bec Poole and Stanley Kaufman’s work will stay up indefinitely. Cynthia Pease is interested in showing Skateboard art by her students at DISHS in October. Daksha is planning an exhibit in November, *Dolls and Toys Beyond Play*. Also considering a simple doll-making workshop to be held during the exhibit. Pat suggested hosting events while an exhibit is up to increase persons viewing the art work. Publicity for the recent exhibit was wanting. Suggestions for improvement include posting on PBP electronic calendar, speaking directly with someone at PBP, creating signage for the event. Posting flyers at the kiosk on the corner of Bagaduce Road and Varnumville Road would be another chance to get the word out about an event.
* No information available about the Dance Sessions with Jill Day.

Coming Events

* 8/28, Monday, 6:30, Flash in the Pan benefit dance for Climate Action Net. Please email Tony if you can assist on that night. (Anne will speak with John E. about the feasibility of getting a Venmo account for RFS so we can accept donations using that tool.)
* 9/09, 7 pm, Saturday: Reggie Harris concert at Reach Performing Arts
* 9/10, 4 pm: Women’s Circle
* 9/12, 4 pm: Planning Team Meeting. Richard Ackerman will spend the first half hour of the meeting introducing us to the concept of Circles of Trust, a program initiated by Parker Palmer
* 9/17, 4 pm: Potluck supper offered by the RFS board.
* 9/20, 7 pm, Wednesday: Andi Lloyd will explore our climate crisis from the place – the Ecotone – where spirituality and science overlap.
* 9/29, Friday: Susan Hand Shetterly will discuss her new book. Time to be determined.

Continuing Conversations

* Event mapping – Gary brought two papers for us to peruse that he created in the past for events at RFS: one is an evaluation form for events; the second was an evaluation written by Gary after an afternoon when we experienced a Shaker service, with music by Jackie Pike and Ann and Lin Parker. We hope to have Joanna’s mapping form at our next meeting.
* The possibility of using RFS as a warming/cooling center in case of a climate emergency. More research needs to be done about the town’s plans and the need for additional spaces. Gary mentioned that BUMC is already set up to receive people during the day. There was a consensus that providing living space (with cots, food, etc.) at RFS is beyond our capability at this time. Emily shared her experience with same in NY and spoke of the requirements that must be met to provide this service. It is very complicated.
* We spent a few minutes discussing how we want to approach this historical moment of cascading free-fall with hope and purpose. Elaine shared that she thinks of the Titanic and the persons who played music while the ship went down. She asked what is the inner music that we have to share during these dark days. Gary suggested that working with Parker Palmer’s Circles of Trust could be a good way to find hope and purpose. Andi Lloyd’s perspective of the Ecotone might prove helpful to some. Anne shared a quote from Valarie Kaur, author of REVOLUTIONARY LOVE. We have a choice of how we see these dark days: the darkness can be the darkness of the tomb or the darkness of the womb. If we choose to see it as the darkness of the womb, then we can be a part of the birth of a more just, inclusive and sustainable Earth.
* Tony reported that the CAN website is going to become part of the RFS website. He is working with Clare P. and Brook M. to make this happen. It should be completed by October.

**Next meeting: September 12th, 4 pm at RFS**

**Facilitator: Anne**

**Scribe: Elaine**