**RFS Program Team Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, January 10th, 2023, 3 pm Zoom**

**Facilitator: Sheila Moir**

**Scribe: Anne Ferrara**

**Present:** Elaine Hewes, Sheila Moir, Emily-Blair Stribling, Tony Ferrara, Gary Vencill, Anne Ferrara

**Opening:** Sheila shared an Eco-Satva Vow from Joanna Macy that was appreciated by all.

**Evaluation of past events…**

* Woodland Caroling: enjoyed by all who participated. Lights strung around the Advent Spiral added to the beauty of the night. Indoor refreshments and conversation were greatly appreciated.
* January Women’s Circle – The women were invited by Audrey Le and Nancy Hathaway to join the Poets Corner gathering where the Dark Sky was honored. Very positive response.
* Qi Gong and Tai Chi – classes with Mia have resumed on Monday and Thursday mornings at RFS. Heat in the Sanctuary is now kept at 50 degrees.
* Buddhist meditation: going well (thank you, Sheila!). A steady, committed group of meditators participate weekly.

**Coming events….**

* Martin Luther King, Jr. annual memorial celebration: Elaine, Gary and Pat have been communicating and meeting with Rob Shetterly to plan this event. It will be held on Sunday, January 15th, at 4 pm on Zoom. Anne will offer the welcome and a reading from Dr. King. Rob will give an overview of the work he is currently engaged in. Five Americans Who Tell the Truth have been selected to highlight from Rob’s book, PORTRAITS OF RACIAL JUSTICE. Five different readers will share the biography of the following persons whose portraits will be shared on the screen: Barbara Johns, p. 60 to be read by Carole P.; Charles Hamilton Houston, p. 54, to be read by Dave M.; Ella Baker, p. 22 to be read by Emily-Blair Stribling; Claudette Colvin, p. 40, to be read by Lola B.; Rosa Parks, p. 84, to be read by Barbara K. One of Rob’s colleagues from AWTT will prepare a PowerPoint. Ricky L. will be our host and tech support person. Gary and Elaine will collaborate on the announcement for the gathering and send it to Brook M. who will post it on our website calendar and mail it out to our RFS e-list on Wednesday. (I am still unclear whether the PowerPoint will have the portraits and be shared by Rob’s colleague or whether Ricky will be expected to do that). It was also suggested that we contact Debra B. and ask her to sing *Precious Lord* (Martin’s favorite hymn) to close our gathering. Anne will do that.

**Continuing conversations….**

* In-person versus Zoom events: to be decided event by event, taking into consideration the degree of Covid in the community at the time of the gathering
* Brook’s role and responsibilities: still being defined. Hopefully, a combined Board and Program Team meeting will clarify this. Brook has been spending her time since being hired updating the archives
* Sheila has asked Bec to set up a joint meeting in the near future
* Threadbare Theatre Workshop: Kate R. reports that 6 schools have responded to their invitation to participate in a Wooden O Festival to present *Macbeth* – each school’s thespians working on a scene. The play in its entirety will be performed at RFS in early April. They will also be rehearsing at the Sanctuary and could use our help with providing refreshments/pot luck supper for the kids

**New business….**

* Question was posed about the appeal letter and the response from the community. To whom was the letter sent? Does it make sense to send it out electronically to our e-list?
* Question was posed about how to communicate with our e-list – suggestion to use the blog to send out inspiring quotes/statements/poems had been suggested. The question of copyright law and reliability issues, as well as our limited resources, resulted in our shelving the idea at this time.
* Request was made by Bobby Cleveland to offer a classical music concert at RFS. Unanimous approval was given. It was suggested that he wait to schedule until the Covid numbers are better on the peninsula.
* Suggestion to show the documentary, *The Dark Sky,* was warmly received. Hopefully, Nancy H. would be available to share her work on this issue.
* Anne shared a quote from Sherri Mitchell’s New Year greeting which included a quote from Tara Brach’s talk titled *Radical Love: Reflections that Awaken the Heart.* The quote is: *“I have no time to rush.”* A short discussion followed about how this concept might inform our Spring Series to be offered 2 or 3 Sundays between February 26th and March 26th. A couple of spur of the moment ideas that were shared were 1. *The Turtle as Model of “I have no time to rush,”* including creative hands-on component; 2. Creating a Cosmic Walk in the woods behind the Sanctuary which allows one to slowly and meditatively walk the 14 billion year Universe Story.

Addendum: Anne forgot to bring this up at the meeting and is thus adding it here.

Hospice Volunteers of Hancock County has asked if they might speak to our community about Hospice and all it has to offer for end-of-life care. I wonder if this might fit in with our Spring Series – if ever there is a time to slow down and be present to life, it is during these sacred months near the end. That is true for the person dying, as well as all their loved ones.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, February 14th, 2023 at 3 o’clock. (It was decided at our January 10th meeting to change our meeting time from 4 to 3 pm. All present said this time works better for them. We will, of course, want to hear from those who were not able to be with us at that meeting.)

**Facilitator:** Anne F.

**Scribe:** Elaine H.