

Community for Interfaith Celebration Annual Meeting-1/29/2023

Welcome, Call and Candles: Sarah Huntington welcomed participants and guided us through our opening rituals.

Overview of Annual Meeting Procedures: Sarah convened the 2023 CIC Annual Meeting by discussing CIC procedures, the role of the Steering Circle and Town Hall, our decision-making process (consensus), and the use of a “parking lot” for issues when we’re not ready for a decision. Attendees were encouraged to enjoy snacks and use noisemakers to celebrate successes.

January 8, 2023, Townhall: Karen Tvedt reviewed notes from our last townhall meeting.

REPORTS

Interfaith Minister’s Report - Annual Meeting 2023-submitted by Corey Passons

1. Personal check-in
 - a. Energized for where we are and where we are going
 - b. Grateful for the community and how I get to participate as a member and a leader
 - c. Excited for exploring where we want to be headed....
 - d. I am trying to take care of myself, not over-work, tend to my body and soul
 - e. Interfaith Works: This is my other job and it satisfies my life and my hopes for my work in many ways. I continue to value my work with IW and I am constantly aware of how my work with IW is strengthened by work with CIC and vice versa
2. Community
 - a. We are a hybrid community! Long learning curve and we are always open to making changes....so please keep sharing your experience!
 - b. (via Sarah) lifting up those expressions of CIC that are not being recognized with a committee report - End of Life, Women's Spirit Circle, Men's Spirituality, Tuesday Meditation, Prayer Circle, Dances of Universal Peace, Anti-Racism/White Privilege study group, spring and fall retreats
3. Visioning
 - a. I want to create a survey in the coming weeks that will try to gain information on where we think we are as a spiritual community and assess where we want to go...
 - a.i. What are our social justice priorities?
 - a.ii. How do we feel about our size and shape AND what we willing to do if we want something different or more than what is?
4. Representation at Parliament of World Religions with Ted and on a panel. The panel will be with Jamal Rahman (of Interfaith Community Sanctuary) and Jen Freidman (new ED of

Dances of Universal Peace North America) with the title of panel being: “Interfaith Ministry in a Postmodern World: field notes from three contemporary practitioners”

5. Celebrate Sarah and Carol and Steering Circle. Reliable place for me to process, try out ideas for the community, and be a part of our ongoing functioning.....THANK YOU!!!!

Youth and Children Program Report: submitted by Miriam Sterlin

How timely, that as we wend our way into the newly welcomed Gregorian 2023 and the year of the Rabbit, we are also nearly halfway through the Jewish 5783 and our CIC calendar year! Time for a review, and an update.

First, I am exuberantly excited to announce that we have hired a Grade School Teacher, Aubrey Evelo. With a well of compassion, an exploration of self, innate curiosity, and an earnest desire to get to know each of the CIC kids, Aubrey is starting her position during Annual Meeting under the wing of Karen Ray, former YCPC. Aubrey comes to us from a first year at Evergreen studying culture of Native peoples of the PNW and ecology, and with a background in music, there is a broad terrain to explore and build relationship with our young folk. Welcome Aubrey!

Over the course of the past year, we have seen big changes in our program. With the loss of Sara as the Middlers Leader and the transition of all of our Middlers into High School students, coordinating schedules has proven to be a challenge. After a year of conversation and check-in with a Youth Group Leader interested in working with youth in-person, we finally transitioned to meeting in-person and at the precipice of the interview our candidate had a bit of a realization and backed away from the prospect. Reed brought joy to the grade school room this past winter by bringing and sharing some favorite childhood solstice stories and shared fuzzy greetings from Bun-Bun. In the coming months I hope to encourage Reed to return to the classroom for time with grade schoolers, and with the time change, perhaps youngers. Jackson sounds happily engaged with traveling soccer on 3 teams as well as music. My hope, this spring, is to find time outside of CIC for Youth to connect on a hike, another climbing trip, or find a time that really works for an escape room.

My time has been divided between recruitment, developing multi-aged materials for each CIC class time, and time teaching in the classroom. Jobs have been posted on bulletin boards around town (food co-ops, community boards), pitched personally to folks connected with child education by myself and others in the CIC Community, and posted on the Handshake Job Listing website at Evergreen and SPSCC, and on the CIC website. I’ve reached out to the UCC, Quaker, Unity Church, and TUCO children’s programs to make a connection and discuss recruitment resources.

To say a bit more about Handshake: Handshake is a job listing platform for students seeking work. Each student has a profile, and as well as posting our jobs among the listings we are matched with potential candidates. I reach out to potential candidates with a courteous and inviting email, and they have the option to respond. I heard back from only a few folks, all of whom seemed wary of organized religion of any fashion, and had varying levels of response and

engagement. Aubrey contacted me through Handshake, looking for a job that would fit into the Evergreen schedule and interested in the Preschool Teacher position, but was open to the idea of working with our main classroom of elementary kids. I am thrilled that Aubrey felt flexible in this way, and this could be a great fit for our Grade Schoolers.

Speaking of Grade Schoolers, here is an overview of activities from the in-person year:

-each week we come in, wash hands, have snack and story, create an art project, have candlelighting time, sing the Buddhist Blessing, and rejoin the community

- stories of Rosh Hashanah, apples and honey for snack, creating Shanah Tova suncatchers
- stories of Yom Kippur, discussion of apology and repair
- investigation of various types of slime has been very popular, paired with a story such as King Midas and the Golden Touch, or other stories of transformation and moral reflecting
- stories of John Muir, guided discussion cultivating ecological awareness paired with an activity book about Washington State
- mindfulness activities and intention setting practices, including a take-home labyrinth
- solstice stories with Reed & Bun-Bun
- Hannukah stories & dreidel games
- music prep & performance for CIC Christmas Eve celebration
- stories of creation from religions around the world, with an opportunity to create a circle storybook
- Annual Meeting is themed on celebrating the Lunar New Year, with a telling of The Great Race, a discussion of the history and culture of the New Year, and each child creating their own zodiac calendar

I would like to thank Karen Ray and Peg Henry for their evenings in the classroom with kids, as well as all the delicious snack deliverers. We have 5-7, or even 10, hungry kiddos who are grateful for every tasty morsel!

Q & A: I am open to questions, ideas, and concerns, and will do my best to answer! Thank you so much for the support you have given me over the course of this year. It is a joy to work with our kiddos in such a supportive environment! Please forgive me if I have overlooked anything in this report, and I am happy to discuss any thoughts or concerns!

Budget: Review of 2022, Proposed 2023 Budget review and approval: Thad Curtz

- **2022 Budget Summary**
 - *Total Expected 2022 Expenses: \$60,142 (salaries were lower than anticipated while materials and technology for hybrid services were higher)*
 - *Expected carry-over to 2023: \$1,740*
- **2023 Budget**
 - *Total Expected 2023 Expenses: \$63,440 (this includes 5% increases in some categories including salaries to account for inflation as well as some adjustments that reflect 2022 spending).*

- *Pledges for 2023*: \$63,250 (small deficit between expenses and pledges (\$190) is more than covered by carry-over from 2022 (\$1,740). There was some discussion about leaving the door open for youth group funding; options discussed included the Benevolence Fund, carry-over from 2022, and youth fundraising.
- **By consensus, the 2023 CIC Budget was approved as submitted with the provision that under-expenditures in staffing may be used for materials in the children’s program. There were no abstentions. It was agreed that a portion of the minister’s compensation may be designated for housing.**

Fundraising Committee: submitted by Kathy Pruitt

Our fundraising committee members are Leeann, Carol Rainwood, Mark Collins and myself. The committee developed this year to provide funds for our food costs at the community kitchen. The Community Kitchen dinners we provide are an all-volunteer effort that requires about \$400 per month in food costs. The fish sales spearheaded by Gene and Leeann, brought in about 2/3 of the amount of the roughly \$4,800 needed yearly.

We added a fundraiser this year with the goals of supplementing the fish sales, secondly to involve CIC Community participation in fundraising, and providing us experience in a new fundraising venue to ensure we have multiple ways to bring in money for the program. In October we organized a fundraiser with a movie in a barn. We were delighted that many of you at CIC were active that evening in volunteering including taking money, bringing popcorn, and helping with set up and take down. We even survived the crisis of the porta potty not showing up by Carol and Jamie providing their camping potty.

Our goal of bringing in \$1,200 was exceeded, reaching \$2,448. We were delighted with this. We are appreciative of those who donated extra that night as well as those who couldn't come who donated. And we are tentatively planning a second barn movie night this fall. We will announce more details on a barn movie night in September.

Benevolence Fund Report: Jan Rocks

**Jan Rocks: Here's the skinny!
as of 12/31/22**

Checking	\$9,308 (\$8,100 fish check hadn't cleared)
Community Kitchen	\$6,671
Retreats	\$2,973
Fundraiser	\$5,323
Pastor's Fund	\$936
Shelter Lunches	\$400

total benevolence fund \$20,288 (as of annual meeting fish check had cleared so the balance on 1/29/2023 was \$12,188)

Fundraisers Movie Night = \$3,113
 Fish Sales = \$3,715

total for fundraisers. \$6,828

**CIC Donations Fund 2022
submitted by Pat Starzyk**

The CIC Donations Fund is the way for people to make non-pledge financial contributions to CIC. Donations are sometimes made in honor of or in memory of someone. Here's the breakdown of activity for 2022.

Starting total: \$393.78

Money received: \$1338.41

Money spent: \$1485.25 (\$400.00 for Interfaith Works Shelter lunches and \$1085.25 from salmon sales processed by PayPal for the Community kitchen)

Year End total: \$246.94

We have closed our PayPal account because of complications with it. Currently donations can be made by cash, check, or electronic funds transfer (if you have a WSECU account). We are putting out a call for help in setting up a system for digital fundraising. People can contact me for further information.

Call Shepherd Report for Annual Meeting- submitted by Carol Rainwood

We have 70 Calls and 55 Volunteers!!

- *This has been a busy year as we moved from Zoom to in person Celebrations and added Hybrid capability with volunteers managing the equipment every week.*
- The Call List has been updated for this year and can be found on the CIC website under "Resources". There will also be hard copies available to look at on the table in the Social Hall. You can also find Call Descriptions on the website.

There are Call Opportunities for you to consider--these teams could use some added support:

1. Set up/Take down Team-talk to Julie Waters
2. Community Support Team-talk to Sabra or Bethanie
3. The Community Kitchen Team-talk to Alan, Corey or Bethanie
4. The Financial Audit Team-talk to Carol (NOTE-gratitude to Jamie Rainwood and Mark Collins for taking on this call.)

Let me know if you are interested in taking a Call or have an idea for a new Call to serve our Community!

WITH DEEP BOWS OF GRATITUDE, WE RECOGNIZE the following volunteers who are stepping down from their Calls:

- Betty Hauser and Pat Starzyk are both stepping down as Financial Auditors after many years of service.
- Sarah Huntington is stepping down as Town Hall Facilitator after 3 years' service
- And I am stepping down as Call Shepherd, after 3 years' service. It has been an honor to work with our generous volunteers, thank you!!

And stepping UP into the ZOOM TECH TEAM to make our HYBRID CELEBRATIONS POSSIBLE are:

- Hilarie Hauptman
- Bethanie Sands
- Thad Curtz
- Karen Tvedt
- Jamie Rainwood
- Jan Rocks
- Meg O'Leary

Thanks to everyone who has decided to continue in a Call or take a new Call!
And special thanks to those who are stepping up to cover for members who are not comfortable coming in person yet!

Social Justice Committee (SJC)-Betty Hauser

Betty reported that the SJC has six active members who meet via zoom generally on the second Saturday of the month. Kristine Forbes has recently joined the group. Over the past year, the SJC has represented CIC on the Interfaith Works (IW) Program Council, facilitated CIC's Martin Luther King Celebration, coordinated CIC's Pride Booth, and participated in the IW Garden Party and the local Hunger Walk.

During our meetings, we hear updates from participants including Scott Bishop's work in building micro houses and Karen Tvedt regularly reports about the advocacy and education efforts of the local League of Women Voters. We are still figuring out an approach to providing shelter lunches.

Community Support Team-Sabra Hull

This past year the Community Support Team supported the CIC community with meal trains, rides to appointments, and other support. The team also surveyed the CIC community about role of the Community Support Team and ways community members are able to be involved. A resurvey may be done this year. Special mention was made of Hilarie Hauptman's involvement and expertise over the past year. The team could use another person to be involved in thinking through issues and providing backup.

Community Kitchen-submitted by Alan Hardcastle

- Demand and Need: Has continued to increase over the past several years
- Costs continue to climb, food/supply prices have inflated, costs now up 60% over the past 3 years
- We have increased production (and distribution) to 264 servings per month.
- Half is served in boxes and distributed at Salvation Army
- The remainder is delivered to Interfaith Works/Commons, and Drexel House
- Recent fundraising by CIC will support increased capacity in 2023
- Volunteers: Core group of CIC volunteers have provided consistent support
 - Coordinators (Alan, Bethanie/Corey)
 - Need to continue to increase volunteer base and coordinator training/mentoring
 - CCS/SA would like us to provide more support for some functions
 - Safety: Salvation Army cafeteria remains closed; future uncertain
 - Youth: No volunteers under 16; 16-18 must be vaxed
 - Masking: Voluntary but encouraged

Connections Committee-Megan Parke/Hugh O'Neill/Katie Guertin-Anderson

Sarah reported for this committee which has been involved this past year with Miriam in teacher hiring and work on creating CIC's now approved sex offender policy (with Kathy Pruitt). They will conduct the annual CIC evaluation this spring.

Closing

Upcoming Meetings

- March-Steering Circle-3/8/2023 at 7:00 pm; Townhall-3/12/2023 after celebration (hybrid)
- April-Steering Circle-4/19/2023 at 7:00 pm; Townhall-4/23/2023 after celebration (hybrid)
- May-Spring Retreat on Sunday 5/21/2023 at Millersylvania State Park, Shelter #2 (all day event in person)