



Justice League Meeting Notes 01/14/18

*ACTING TO EMPOWER OUR COMMUNITY TO CHALLENGE THE CONDITIONS
THAT CREATE INEQUALITY AND INJUSTICE*

Members:

- Marjorie Bedzek
- Melissa Bishop, Co-Chair
- Timothy Bishop
- Susan Ermish
- Carol Foster
- Jann Halloran
- Vivian Littlefield
- Harriet Lubchenco
- Dick Lubchenco
- Sarah Melius*
- Sharon Melius*
- Maurice Murray
- Kim Rebecca-Murray, Co-Chair
- Janet Stevens

*Visitors!!

Worship: Harriet lit the chalice with a reading from several religious faiths focused on neighbors. Melissa led a meditative spiritual practice focusing on envisioning a desired future. Some shared words were: healthy, co-creative, twinkling, justice, equality, and no poverty. Harriet extinguished the chalice with a reading.

Group reflection: The planned presentation by Vivian on Women's equality was postponed to share reflections about issues that have developed around wearing pink p-hats to the upcoming Women's March and at a recent town hall meeting for veterans held by Congressman Buck, 4th District.

- **Pink hats:** Kim had asked Prairie Stitches to make hats for individuals planning on attending the upcoming Women's March. Recently, some articles and Facebook postings have circulated that focus on objections to the hats because they don't necessarily reflect all women, especially black and transgender women. The hats also focused on women's body parts without a full view of who women are. This controversy upset some of the Prairie Stitches in part because they had worked very hard to make them. Discussion focused on how the Justice League members could communicate value and appreciation to the Stitches while simultaneously respecting women who objected to this hat depiction of women. Kim will send the web site of articles and video describing this issue.

Some ideas for addressing this issue in our community at Prairie were to interact with individuals in the Stitches, honor them for making their effort, share a variety of opinions, and collectively recognize that feminism has not always been inclusive of all women. Vivian suggested we view the UUA site for women's issues since it reflects inclusiveness of all women. (www.UUFederation.org)

- **Veteran challenges:** Marjorie reported that she attended the town hall for veterans. There was a large crowd, mostly white, older veterans and a few women. Health issues were mentioned: the Denver Veteran's Hospital does not have resources for treating women with PTSD; the Congressman was not familiar with a bill to provide peer-to-peer counseling for women experiencing harassment and homelessness. Marjorie reported that Isaac from Prairie spoke about the tax bill and how loss of revenue might affect programs for veterans including mental health. A suggested solution was to increase women in congress and elected positions.

Service Sundays: Kim reviewed the plans for Service Sunday on January 28, 2018. This is an event created by *Aurora Warms the Night* for Prairie members to help homeless families wash their clothes. The event will be held

on Colfax with some 20 to 30 families, including children. Prairie's children are welcome. A bag lunch will be provided by Cindy for Prairie members and snacks for the homeless. Bring lots of quarters.

A future Service Sunday will focus on the global environment. Ideas included exploring the issues surrounding the expansion of Chatfield, the work of the Audubon Society, and other conservation work. Sarah will explore the possibilities with the Audubon Society. Jann encouraged having an actual activity to be involved, rather than education only. Additional Service Sundays will focus on science and wellness/wholeness.

Justice League Films and Common Read Series: After some discussion and suggestions, it was decided to have two films, one on a Sunday in April after church. This will require a fee. We will possibly show another film on a Friday night in March at the Parker Library. Melissa will develop a Survey Monkey to ask for selection of films and books. Please send any suggestions (in addition to the ones below) directly to Melissa!

Action Planning

- **Suggested viewing**
 - Video on pink hats (sent in Kim's email)
 - "Coco," in theaters now – take the kids – or not!
 - YouTube video on suicide (Note: link sent in email)
 - "13th" now available on Netflix
 - "Whose Streets" (Note: see Melissa's email on this)
 - "I am Not Your Negro" (see below)
- **Suggested Reading**
 - Articles on pink hats (sent in Kim's email)
 - "All the Rage," Courtney Summers
 - "Policing the Black Man," ed. Angela Davis
 - "Citizen, An American Lyric," Claudia Rankine (Note: Kim to send email on this)
 - "Humiliation and hostility: A riot lives on," Elaine McArdle and Kenny Wiley, <https://www.uuworld.org/articles/humiliation-hostility-riot-lives>
- **Suggested Attendance (ask Kim for details)**
 - Racial Justice Film Series, "I am Not Your Negro," 1/22
 - "Whose Bias is It Anyway" (2-part workshop on disrupting racial bias) 1/16 and 1/23
 - Women's March 1/20
 - Service Sunday 1/28
 - Habitat Interfaith Alliance soup cookoff 2/17

Miscellaneous Updates

- **Update on Sanctuary Coalition:** Melissa presented (powerfully) at the Congregational Meeting on 1/14 and we voted unanimously to formally join the Metro Denver Sanctuary Coalition!! Please, visit metrodenversanctuary.org and brainstorm on our next steps!

NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 11, 2018