

## Meeting Minutes for September 4, 2014

**Attendees:** Frank & Blythe Baldwin, Nancy & Ed Siemon, Linda Gaither, Joey Cardamone, Cora Yao, John Jackson, guest(don't know his name).

We began the meeting by going around the group to check in about issues.

1. **Ithaca Prisoner Justice Network:** Joey reported that the funds for expansion of the Tompkins County jail passed in the Tompkins County Legislature in early summer. However a report on alternatives to incarceration was received by the legislature in August. The report recommended that a staff person be added to OAR, Opportunities, Alternatives, and Restoration, a lawyer be present at every arraignment, more use of drug court, and a social worker on duty at night to take care of people, often the mentally ill, who frequently (“frequent fliers”) call the police for help and/or attention. The next meeting of IPJN is Thursday, September 11, at 7 PM. at the Quaker Meeting House on Third Street, Ithaca.

2. Linda Gaither: Reported that this is the **75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of EPF**. A meeting in Alexandria, Virginia about gun violence is occurring in October. In regards to **Israel/Palestine**, Linda reported that Israel seems to be on the defensive after the military action in Gaza this summer. BDS, boycott, divestment and sanctions is taking its toll on Israel. She cited the example of SodaStream losing 50% of its sales revenue and is now considering leaving the West Bank.

3. Cora Yao: Expressed concern for **Native Americans** whose land was snatched from them by Europeans colonizing North America, a situation similar to Israel annexing Palestinian lands. She reported that the Methodist Church is asking forgiveness from Native Americans.

4. **Hunger policy:** John Jackson suggested bulletin inserts supplied by Bread for the World to inform people about food stamp cuts. He will look into getting bulletin inserts. Cora Yao will contact Lutherans about their **Crop Walk** plans for October.

5. **Frances Perkins:** John talked to Fr. Clark West this summer and he is interested in doing a joint activity with our church and with EPF, perhaps a panel discussion. John will explore this more with Fr. Clark.

6. Frank and Blythe reminded us about the primary election on Tuesday, September 9.

7. **Commemoration of saints:** Discussion occurred about having a service on New Year's Eve, in late afternoon or early evening, to remember Francis Joseph Gaudet who was a prison reformer. We talked about writing postcards or letters to prisoners in conjunction with this service.

8. Frank suggested that we brainstorm activities for our chapter of EPF for the coming year at the October meeting.

**Summary of Actions:**

- Investigate service on December 31, 2014 to commemorate Francis Joseph Gaudet – did we have a volunteer to do this?
- Bulletin inserts from Bread for the World - John
- Contact St Luke's Lutheran Church about their hunger walk – Cora
- Investigate activity such as a panel discussion about Frances Perkins - John