

Minutes of EPF Meeting of May 7, 2015

Attendees: Blythe and Frank Baldwin, Joey Cardamone, Linda Gaither, John Jackson, Nancy and Ed Siemon, Shannon Berndt

Opening Prayer

Reports:

1. Ithaca Prisoner Justice Network (IPJN): Joey gave the report.
 - a) Lobby Day in Albany: Barbara Lifton signed onto the HALT bill as a co-sponsor.
 - b) Question was raised as to what legislators can say to correction officer unions in defense of reducing the use of solitary confinement. Answer is that prisons that use less solitary for punishment are less violent. Also, others states have unions that favor reducing use of solitary.
 - c) Shannon suggested that folks join local parole boards. This is possible in Pennsylvania but we are not sure that one can just volunteer in NYS; it may be an appointed position.
 - d) There will be a retreat in the fall for upstate cities to strategize to get the HALT bill passed.
 - e) Ministry Fair at St. John's well received. Lisa Tatusko is interested in taking communion into the jail. She will contact TC jail for requirement for orientation.
2. Pen Pals: no report.
3. Bread for the World: John Jackson reported that about 40 letters were signed to each NYS senator and to Rep. Tom Reed, 120 letters in all. We are planning a meeting with staff of Tom Reed to advocate for federal funding of child nutrition.
4. Frances Perkins: Poster distributed. Panel and service are planned May 13 at Anabel Taylor Hall at Cornell.
5. Palestine/Israel: Linda Gaither reported that a decision of whether to hold a referendum of Greenstar members about selling Israeli products in their store will be made on May 12.
May 13 is observation of Palestinian holocaust to remember dispossession of lands from Palestinians in 1948 which resulted in 700,000 refugees.
6. Martyrdom of Jonathan Daniels: 50th anniversary of New Hampshire man in Alabama

Next Meeting: June 4, 2015; We meet at 2:15 at St. John's in Chapman Room to organize for meeting with staff of Rep. Tom Reed in Ithaca at 3:PM. The purpose of the meeting is to advocate for federal funding for child nutrition. (Bread for the World) We follow up the meeting by returning to St. John's. We dine at Loaves and Fishes at 5:30 – 6:30 pm.

Closing Prayer & Adjournment