

EPF of Ithaca Area Minutes May 28, 2018

Attendees: John Jackson, Linda Gaither, Ed and Nancy Siemon, Cathy Lewis

Social Justice Minute:

- Cathy Lewis reported that 4 of 10 prisoners witness a killing in their childhood. Also she reported that in Auburn prison some prisoners are performing, telling stories, expressing themselves in a theatre setting. Good outlet for emotions and anger.
- Nancy reported that she has friends who have a granddaughter attending the high school in Parkland, Florida, site of mass shooting. Traumatized.
- Another member reported that an immigrant, Gemma Hernandez, 20 years old, from Guatemala, crossed the border and was killed by a border guard in Laredo, Texas.
- On a happier note, in Paris, an illegal immigrant from Africa rescued a toddler from falling from an apartment building and was granted French citizenship.
- Gazans were portrayed as violent by Israelis in recent protests at the border. Some were killed and many injured by Israeli soldiers. A Jewish group in Ithaca was using Dr. M.L. King's definition of violence to justify Israeli's reaction.

Poor Peoples' Campaign:

John reported that PPC intends to go to Albany where some activists plan on getting arrested. Next will be a trip to Washington, DC. Linda said that Peace on the Go has a link to PPC to find out about actions, training. Linda also suggested that in the Fall we have a speaker from the PPC at St. John's.

Offering of Letters for Bread for the World:

St. Paul's United Methodist will hold their offering on June 3. Epiphany will be lead by Blythe; Trinity Lutheran is also expected to participate. St. John's does theirs on June 3. First Presbyterian has done theirs. An action we could take is to write a letter to go in the Ithaca Journal inviting other churches to join us next year in an offering of letters.

Palestine/Israel:

- Linda is delivering petitions to Senator Schumer's office asking that Senator Schumer speak out against violence perpetrated Palestinians.
- Linda also wants to show a film, "1948," showing Palestinians being run out of Palestine. She would like us to view the film with JVP and then show the film to a broader group with a panel discussion to follow.

Update on Plowshare prisoners: including Clare Grady. They have been moved to another prison. Hope we can find out address.

Next Meeting: June 25, 2018, 5 PM. at. John's; dinner after the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Siemon