

**Salem No Place for Hate Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2017 5:30 PM
120 Washington Street, 3rd Floor**

Members: Fawaz (Fuzzy) Abusharrkh, Joe Amico (Liaison to Religious Community), Laura Assade (Liaison to Mayor's Office), Jim Bostick (Communications Subcommittee Chair), Jeff Cohen (Chair), Rebecca Comage (Liaison, Salem State University), Lucy Corchado (Treasurer), David Eppley (City Council), Nicole Lashomb (Community Engagement Subcommittee Chair), Michael Millett, Elaine Milo (President, City Council), Gricel Ocasio, Conrad Prosniewski (Captain, Salem Police Department), Scott Weisberg, Fara Wolfson (Vice Chair/Clerk)

Guests:

Dr. Alexandra Piñeros Shields (Executive Director of ECCO- Essex County Community Organization), Ana Nuncio (President, Latino Leadership Coalition), Marcelle Abi-Esber, Nancy Anderson, Christina Ayube, MaryAnn Blondek, Bruce Campbell, Marsha Finkelstein, Katherine Fuller, Norene G, Sharon Giardino, Amy HirschKron, Denise Kent, Sue Kirby, Hala O'Keeffe, Paisley Rojagato, Alyssa Staples, Natasha Sudiaman, (add on to list)

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM

Public Comments: There were no public comments at the start of the meeting. There will be additional time for Q&A after presentation and at end of today's meeting.

Officer/Committee Reports

Clerk

- Meeting minutes were distributed to committee. Word clouds were added to capture public comments from last meeting. Motion was made, seconded and approved to send revisions to minutes via email.
- Social Justice Book Club will not meet this month due to the number of events for Dr. King's birthday. We will be meeting February 16th to discuss FAREWELL TO MANZANAR to coincide with the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066. The book was written by Jeanne Wakatsuki-Houston who was 7 years old when her family was ordered to leave their homes and live at the incarceration/internment camp at Manzanar. Book club meetings are posted on Facebook. Request made to post books earlier to give people more time to read.

Treasurer

- Lucy reported that the current balance is \$827.85.
- Our annual fundraiser will be at Finz on February 7th. Details to follow.
- Next batch of T-shirts has been ordered. Different sizes and styles will be available. We still have shirts at Wicked Good Books. Money has been sent to print brochures and other materials.

Publicity Committee

Jim shared our new brochures which have been printed in English and Spanish. They will be available at City Hall and at Wicked Good Books and distributed at upcoming events in the community. Upcoming initiatives planned to educate the public to provide talking points and identify local businesses that support/practice our mission.

Community Engagement

Nicole reported that the committee is growing. In addition to number of people who signed up at last meeting, more have signed up on Facebook. An email was sent to those who have already signed up. You don't have to be a member of the committee or live in Salem to be part of the subcommittee.

Chair

- Fundraiser at Finz. February 7, Traditional meeting at 5:30. Fundraiser begins at 6:00. Raffle items will be posted at Facebook. Joe requested we develop a 1-page flyer that can be distributed.
- Lisa McBride (Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion, Salem State) requested our committee co-sponsor event at Salem State to make Salem State a No Place for Hate Committee (Event co-sponsored by: SSU Office of Civic Engagement, Hillel, First Year, Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies)

Guest Speakers:

Dr. Alexandra Piñeros Shields (Executive Director of ECCO)

Ana Nuncio (President of Latino Leadership Coalition)

- Focused on the movement to designate Salem as a Sanctuary City.
- Started with discussion of petition.
- This is something that is impacting our community very much. Salem has an opportunity to move away from a very dark place and move into a place where we support our friends and neighbors who are undocumented.
- Jeff gave a little additional information regarding the background of developing the ordinance and the formation of the committee.
- Ana Nuncio -- attended immigration workshop last Sunday conducted entirely in Portuguese. What came across in the church filled with (mostly) Brazilian immigrants was the level of distress, outpouring of emotion. One woman shared her experience of attempts to have lawyers help individuals reinstate their status. Makes one realize how difficult the process is and what the hurdles. We need to make informed decisions on where we as a community stand on this issue.
- Dr. Alexandra Piñeros Shields - This issue is close to our hearts because our families are affected. It is also very urgent. ECCO was founded ~30 years ago to address inner city violence in Lynn. It is an interfaith organization with two goals: racial justice and economic justice. We have been trying to reform immigration and respond to the sentiment "Why don't they get in line... my ancestors waited in line... the problem is there is no line. No clear path." This is not just a result of the new administration. It has been in the works for decades and there is a little misinformation.

- Some think of this as a crime and language used in the media echoes that, but this is an "administrative violation" not a crime. Because it is not part of the civil code or criminal code, there is no court-appointed lawyers or juries or rights and it is very racialized.
- Before 2000, most of the people who were undocumented in Massachusetts were Irish. Then in 2000 the Brazilian population exceeded the Irish population. At that time ACLU reported that the Irish (white undocumented people) never stayed in detention more than 4-6 weeks whereas Black and Latino detainees were held an average of 6-9 months and then deported. \$162/night per detainee and then they were deported so there was profit to be made
- January 19th there will be an immigration policy teach-in at UU Church in Swampscott. The Vice President of ECCO from Paraguay spoke. She owns her own business, employees people. They pay taxes, play an active role in their congregation and they are involved in civic duty. "To me, she represents the contributions of our immigrants."
- Important to create safety. It is the right thing to do. Our policies have failed our community of immigrants.
- January 24th Interfaith Panel on Sanctuary Cities

Questions and comments followed

- Impact on family
- Obligation to human dignity which is what is at core of the ordinance
- Those who are compelled should add their names
- View shared that we as a committee should stand for marginalized groups,
- Signing should be an option (not requirement).
- Questions related to whether one is a resident or has a stake/vested interest in Salem
- In addition to petitions individuals can write letters to the editor or to City Council (whether they are Salem residents or not)
- Rainbow Times stated their support for sanctuary cities
- Thank you, Ana and Alexandra, especially for what you shared in terms of education.
- Shocked by pushback but realized many of those who are responding negatively do not have information or education (which is why there is an Interfaith event planned)
- You need to reach people where they are. Tabernacle Church youth is going to Worcester as part of Task Force to meet with individuals who have come here seeking asylum because of how they were persecuted in their countries of origin
- Must be clearly stated that there will be no Muslim Registry in Salem.
- Regarding the timeline: there are three more meetings and the goal is to have this ready for the January 26th City Council meeting which starts at 7:00. You must sign up to speak no later than 6:30) David Eppley explained logistics, subcommittees, etc.
- Really it is at Subcommittee meeting that actual document is affected
- Where can we get more information? Links are available. Interfaith event? Call City Council rep and ask what their thoughts are.
- Some clarification provided as to what this means for Salem.
- Martin Niemöller's quote: *"First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out because I was not a Socialist. Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out because I was not a Trade Unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did*

not speak out because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.”

- It is in our interest to protect our neighbors because they are our neighbors.
- Anecdote about Salem Police Department and importance of building trust in community so people are not scared to call the police.
- Police Captain Conrad Prosniewski then clarified a few points regarding police, committee, and funding.

Schedule of Events for MLK Week Salem State Liaison Rebecca Comage provided details of the 27th annual event themed “The Courage to Create a Just World.” All events are open to the public, including “Revolutionary Reflection.” Week begins with MLK Vigil and Freedom March on January 16th and culminates with the January 23rd Annual Convocation with Keynote Speaker Dr. C.T. Vivian. This year there is no essay contest. Instead there are leaders in the community being acknowledged. Rebecca will send details related to parking.

City Council President Elaine Milo addressed the committee and discussed her commitment to our work. Because of her position as City Council President, she is going to step down from acting as co-liaison to the committee. Various members spoke thanking her for her support and positive energy and expressing their gratitude.

The meeting returned to public comment and questions and comments focused around the sanctuary cities, including producing a FAQ sheet.

Motion to adjourn meeting. Meeting was adjourned.