

Sonoma Valley Interfaith Ministerial Association

Website: sonomavalleyinterfaithma.org Email: sonomavalleyinterfaithma@gmail.com

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

First Congregational Church of Sonoma

Present: Steve Finley, Manette Fairmont, Peadar Dalton, Curran Reichert, Bill Redder, Nick Dalton John Bonnoit.

Guest: Whitney Evans and Garland Lamb-Care Partners Initiative, Whitney's wife, Jeanette.

Welcome and Call to Order - Nick opens with a reminder of the importance of caring for ourselves so we can go forward care for others.

Checking In With Non Profits -

- F.I.S.H. - Newsletter to be emailed.
- City Council - Peadar reports: The City Council meets at 6:00 p.m., on the first and third Monday of each month. Meetings are held in Council Chambers at 177 First Street West, Sonoma California. Community participation is important, all are welcome. To view notes from the Sept. 16th meeting go [here](#). Current elective's terms end in December. We will invite the next Mayor to one of our Spring meetings.
- SVU School District - Nick reports that the Hanna Institute has been coordinating with the district on a Continuum of Care and is meeting monthly with district personnel to coordinate behavioral and social/emotional care curriculum. More information on their programs can be found [here](#). A special presentation by Rhythmic Mind, an evidence-based therapeutic Hip Hop Therapy program and non-profit serving at-risk/at-promise teens and Transitional Age Youth, will be held December 5th. Please consider attending and share the information with your youth group leaders, see the details [here](#).
- Sustainable Sonoma - Most recent newsletter has been forwarded to your emails.
- S.O.S. - Curran reports that they have been looking at needs and ways to respond if there was a power outage. Manette suggests looking into donations that can be put towards a small generator to support the fridge and freezer. They are petitioning for a second shower. Day service numbers have doubled. Approx. 100 meals a day are being served, 50 in house meals and 50 take away meals. Please encourage your congregations to continue giving to S.O.S. as the need is ongoing and increased, this is the season of the most need. John Bonnoit will look into connecting Kathy King to speak at St. Francis.
- Local Law Enforcement - Steve will be providing any new updates with the police dept. Feel free to reach out the office at the police station, 996-3601, if you would like to have a local deputy attend any of your events to say "hi" and introduce themselves.

Upcoming Events -

- Caring For A Loved One With Memory Loss forum, Saturday, October 5th, 9am-2pm. Flyer sent in a separate email.
- Yom Kippur - October 9th day and evening, see the schedule [here](#). All are welcome.
- Forgotten Heroes event - Muslims, Jews and Christians working together during WW1, October 29th at Trinity Episcopal Church at 7:00pm.
- Service of Remembrance, November 1st, 6:00pm in FCC/CSS sanctuary
- Community Thanksgiving service, November 28th, 10am-11am here at FCC/CSS in Burlingame Hall. Steve and Curran to host. Please reach out in order to help plan and prepare.
- Hospice Tree Lighting, Sunday, December 1st, Sonoma Plaza, 6:00pm.
- Winter Solstice Labyrinth Walk, December 20th, open from 6:00pm-8:00pm, instrumental music.
- Community Menorah Lighting/1st Night of Hanukkah, December 22nd, 4:00pm in front of Burlingame Hall, 252 W. Spain St.

Information to Share -

- **Save the date!** Hanna Institute Conference, January 29-31, 2020. A three day event featuring renowned experts applying unique perspectives and approaches to address trauma and build resilience in communities, organizations and individuals. Registration opens September 30th on the Hanna Institute [website](#). An interfaith presence is so important. If you can't attend please consider sending a representative.

Guest - Garland Lamb, Whitney Evans and his wife, Jeanette -Care Partners Initiative

Whitney and Garland are volunteers and teammates for this program. Garland is the primary caregiver for her dad and Whitney is the primary caregiver for his wife. 1 in 10 ages 65+ have memory loss, this means 1000 in Sonoma Valley. For every one with memory loss there are two to three that are directly impacted. Approximately 2000-3000 people in our valley are impacted by memory loss.

Care Partners Initiative was created with the goals of supporting Sonoma Valley residents who care for loved ones with memory loss and for those they care for, and to provide support for a Care Partners Community. We are animated by our belief that with the right education and support, these families can enjoy a quality life, despite the illness and the tribulations. We make this belief a reality through our partnerships with existing providers such as Vintage House, the Alzheimer's Association and Sonoma Valley Hospital by providing:

Educational Programs— on how to live with loved ones with memory loss, including the Savvy Care-giver program and other proven programs of the Alzheimer's Association.

Support Groups – monthly meetings for care partners and one for couples, meetings at Vintage House facilitated by the Alzheimer's Association.

Activities –holiday sing-along with the Vintage House Singers, pet therapy guided by Pets lifeline, a table at the Friday "Soups on" lunch at Vintage House. Other activities of interest will be added in 2020. For information on other programs at Vintage House visit their website <https://vintagehouse.org> They are also partnering with Pets Lifeline for pet therapy

The Alzheimers Association and Council on Aging have programs in place to help and in partnership Care Partners Initiative they can help match those programs with those in need.

What they need from us: please share with your deacons, elders, committees and congregation members who will be supporting those with memory loss and their families, help is available and important. Share the upcoming forum on October 5th with your community as soon as possible. Garland has offered to have coffee with anyone who would like more information, guidance or support: garlandlamb26@gmail.com or (267) 992-8109. Whitney can be reached at wevans1114@sbcglobal.net You can also visit the website at <https://carepartnersinitiative.org/>

Things to consider -

- Steve would like us to re-visit the idea of hosting a community forum similar to the “Words That Hurt, Words That Heal”. On that note, Curran recommends the book “Rising Strong Spiritually” by Brene Brown.
- **There will be no meeting in November.** Our November/December combined meeting will be held on December 11th, guest: Sandy Piotter from F.I.S.H. to update on Winter needs and this past year’s events/progress.
- Can we get an ad in the paper about the Thanksgiving service?
- Peadar suggests an article in the paper about Rich and his long-time involvement in S.V.I.M.A. Perhaps an annual remembrance article. Steve mentions the “Don’t Go To Church, Be The Church” day that St. Andrew does annually in May and maybe we all can get involved in memory of Rich and tie it into an article in the paper.
- If you are a liaison for one of our Community groups, see below, and are unable to attend our monthly meeting, please email a brief update to share with the group to sonomavalleyinterfaithma@gmail.com

City Council - Peadar Dalton

SVUSD - Jacey Pickens-Jones

Sustainable Sonoma - Jacey Pickens-Jones

S.O.S. - Curran Reichert

Police/Sheriff - Steve Finley

F.I.S.H. - Steve Finley

Our next meeting is Wednesday, October 23rd, 12:15pm sharp - Please send a representative if you are unable to attend. Guest: TBD

Meeting Adjourned - 1:35pm