

## Sonoma Valley Interfaith Ministerial Association

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Wednesday, October 24, 2018

First Congregational Church of Sonoma

**Present:** Steve Finley, Donna Thomas, Rich Gantenbein, Curran Reichert, Jim Thomas, Jacey Pickens-Jones, Emily Pickens-Jones, John Bonnoitt (St. Francis Solano), Peadar Dalton.

**Guests:** Susan Murray and Bonnie Joy Kaslan from Cancer Support Sonoma.

**Welcome and Call to Order** - Steve thanked everyone for condolences and care for his mother's passing. He acknowledged that sometimes it's hard for us as spiritual leaders to "walk the talk". Curran and Jacey also discussed how hard it is sometimes to not let anger and discouragement lead our thoughts and actions.

### **Checking In With Non Profits -**

- F.I.S.H. - Steve handed out a copy of the recent newsletter, see your email for a copy.
- City Council - Peadar reports that there are three council seats up for election Nov. 6th: Mayor Ag-rimoti and Rachel Hundley are each seeking a second term for their seats, and Gary Edwards will not seek re-election. Meetings are the 1st and 3rd Monday at 6pm, there is a Public Forum opportunity at each meeting with 2 minutes allowed to speak on any topic of concern to a resident. For more information visit the website [here](#).
- Police Dept. - Nothing to report, but we should consider asking the new chief to attend our meeting in January.
- S.O.S. - Curran reports that there is a staff transition in the works. If you have access to anyone with training in social services please contact Kathy King at S.O.S. The task force to assess needs related to homelessness in the valley had their first meeting with no mentionable outcome. Please consider inviting S.O.S. director Kathy King to one of your services to discuss their upcoming needs.
- Sustainable Sonoma - Jacey will be the point person for now. She reports that at their last meeting they chose three areas of community need to focus efforts on (based on the outcome of the listening circles): Affordable Housing, Education and Youth, and Mobility(bike paths, walking trails). After some discussion they chose Affordable Housing as a priority focus and will discuss the others at the next meeting. Meetings will be held at the Community Center, information can be found [here](#).

**Thanksgiving** - We will be holding the Interfaith Thanksgiving service from 10:00am -11:00am at the Hanna Boys Center chapel. Jacey will be offering the main sermon, Emily will be singing and Rich has a contact for a musician. Peadar, Rich, Donna and Nick will help out. We need additional volunteers to be part of Jacey's team. Please contact Jacey to help out at 724-840-3589.

### **Guest Speakers - Susan Murray, Bonnie Joy Kaslan, Cancer Support Sonoma -**

- They are a fairly new non-profit providing support to cancer patients and their families. Located at 246 Perkins Street, they offer complementary therapies to help cancer patients reduce the physical and emotional symptoms of conventional cancer treatments such as fatigue, nausea, depression and anxiety. Services are available to anyone in the valley and surrounding areas who has (or had) cancer, from the time of diagnosis throughout treatment and into recovery. Therapies include: Acu-

puncture, Oncology Massage, Lymphatic Massage, Naturopathic Counseling, Jin Shin Jyutsu (Japanese Acupressure), Ayurvedic Consultations, Craniosacral Therapy, and Reflexology.

- Started 4 years ago in the Sonoma Valley Hospital and were almost forced to close. Read their story [here](#). They struggle each month with overhead costs but continue to be there for the approximately 100 patients they see each month who are so grateful for them.
- We currently do not have an oncologist in Sonoma and patients need to find family and friends to take them out of town for treatments and services which is often difficult and exhausting. Bonnie was a patient and feels that Cancer Support Sonoma save her life. They hear from patients weekly who say the same. They say they feel comfortable and supported there amongst those in the same situation. Having to go to various offices out of town creates a stressful and more isolated situation.
- These two women are passionate about getting the word out that they are in need of volunteers and funding. The grants they receive pay for services but not rent/utilities.
- We are all touched in some way by cancer, we have ourselves experienced it or know someone who has. Surely in this community of giving there is room for financial support and increased volunteers. Please mention them at your services for those in need of their offerings and for those who can possibly help out. They will also come speak at your services, women's/men's clubs or other gatherings and events.
- They will be attending the Community Health Fair at Sassarini School on Saturday, November 10th. More information [here](#).
- To contact them or for more information or to donate visit their website [here](#).

#### **Good and Welfare -**

- Curran and Steve will co-officiate the All Souls Remembrance Service, November 1st, 7pm at First Congregational Church of Sonoma. This will also be a candlelight vigil for the Jewish community.
- Steve reports that the Thursday radio show has updated the weekly themes for an 18 week rotation. Any ideas for topics are also welcome, you are encouraged to attend or call in for the first 20 minute segment or the whole hour, please email Steve at [rabbisteve@shir-shalom.org](mailto:rabbisteve@shir-shalom.org). It is good for the community to know that, even in these times of increasing anger and segregation, the various faiths come together monthly for the greater good of our community.
- Peadar has asked for prayers for his nephew, Armand, who is battling colorectal cancer.

#### **Things to consider -**

- Invite Kathy King to one of your services, gatherings or speaking events to discuss S.O.S. and their upcoming needs.
- Invite Kathey King to the radio show to discuss opening of the Winter Shelter.
- Invite Susan Murray and/or Bonnie Joy Kaslan to one of your services or events and attend their open house on December 6th, 5:30pm at Cancer Support Sonoma, 246 Perkins St.
- Invite the new chief of police to speak at one of our meetings-January?
- Please consider attending one of the free Trauma Trainings from Hanna Institute that Nick has invited us to. Contact Nick at [ndalton@hannacenter.org](mailto:ndalton@hannacenter.org)
- Let's discuss offering drop-in prayer services/stations at public places or after the 4:00pm Prayer Fridays or at our chapels/sanctuaries. Suggestions?
- Please email Tricia your events and activities for November and December, ones you are hosting and ones you are participating in, that we can add to a list as soon as possible.
- You may want to attend at presentation from Father Greg Boyle of Homeboy Industries, visit [here](#) for more information.

**Closing** - Donna encourages us to keep our passion and joy in the face of sorrow and discouragement and to continue to touch each other, even here at our meetings.

**See you all at the Thanksgiving service!**

**Our next meeting is Wednesday, December 12th (Nov/Dec) , 12:15pm sharp - Please send a representative if you are unable to attend.**

**Meeting Adjourned - 1:29pm**