MINUTES FROM OUR MEETING ON TUESDAY, March 9

Present: Frances (chair this month), Tom,Bunny, Martha, Richard, Elaine, Julie, Woody, Ann VB, Skip, Jackie, Jo, and Carolyn Mor our guest speaker about Restorative Justice of Hancock County

Elaine opened the meeting with a prayer.

1. Carolyn spoke of the Restorative Justice Project of Midcoast and Hancock County Maine and her involvement with the group as a mentor. The group is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit. –Its website is rjpmidcoast.org. It serves Waldo, Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, and Hancock counties.

It is not the same as the Restorative Justice Institute of Maine, which is based in Portland, though the Institute may provide supportive services in the form of trainings and educational seminars to the MIdcoast Maine Project.

The focus of the Restorative Justice Project of MIdcoast Maine in Hancock County has been on juvenile persons that enter the court system because of an offense. If the offender consents to participate, he/she is diverted to the Restorative Justice Project. Each young person has a mentor with whom he/she meets once a week. The first step is a meeting of the "open circle" where the victim and the offender meet accompanied by family, the mentor, a facilitator (Leslie Ross in Penobscot), probation officer, school officials and others involved. An action plan of "restorative justice" is discussed and agreed upon. After a specified period of time the circle reconvenes and reviews the agreement and decides whether justice has been served as much as possible. If the circle agrees that justice has been served, the court drops the charge against the offender.

Carolyn also volunteers as a tutor with adult prisoners at the Hancock Jail, though that program is on hold because of Covid.

The Restorative Justice project pays its facilitators and does get grants to support its work. Mentors volunteer their time.

Thank you Carolyn!

2. Minutes for February approved

3. Simmering Pot report. Jo and Ann. The group is still working on a better system for tracking reimbursements for food bought for the soups. There was discussion about whether St B's should have an account at Burnt Cove or should Simmering Pot who eventually reimburses for all expenses. It was suggested that the SP group continue their discussion internally and let us know their decision at the April Meeting. Next Soup date is March 22. More people are needed for kitchen duty on that date, and the sign-up list of duties now includes recycling and laundry. Contact Jo Jacobs.

4. Scholarship report – Jackie. Jackie has written the guidance counselor (Chelsea Brown) and principal at DISHS offering two scholarships of $750 each. The decision was made not to advertise in the Island

Advantages. The scholarships are advertised on the school website. We discussed a proposal from Ann that St B's also offer a scholarship to sophomores and juniors for summer enrichment programs with the hope that a summer program would open up possibilities for college study not yet considered. No decision made but to visit the possibility next year, and to ask Chelsea Brown her thoughts. Jackie expressed the desire to make the senior awards larger- $1000 each. Julie reported that in her conversation with Chelsea Brown, Chelsea said that $750 was a very significant scholarship for students. We informally decided to leave the awards as is for this year.

5.Equity donations – Tom, Ann

Tom and Ann have a list of organizations that are working in Maine for more racial justice. The list comes from Miriam's son-in-law, Lewis, who lives and works in Portland. One organization was mentioned, Inside/Out. Ann will send the list to all of us. (I think she has by now 3/11/21). Our homework is to research the list. The subcommittee on donations will meet before the next full committee meeting and come up with recommendations for donations to present at the April meeting. The goal is to disburse about half of our budget by June following our voted upon proportional percentages for local, county, state, nation, world and emergency. The committee members are encouraged to send info to Tom about organizations that the subcommittee should consider.

6. Next meeting will be at 11:30am, Tuesday, April 13th. Bunny will chair. Skip will be the note taker.

submitted by Bunny Reardon