

Unitarian Society of New Haven
Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees
August 21, 2011

Board Members Present: Sue Linsley, Gregg Burton; Patricia Duff; Gil Belaval; Sarah Berke; Alan Price; Jesse Whitehead; Sandra Frawley;

Board Members Absent: Lisa Anderson; Larry Rizzolo; Thea Bourke-Martin;

S. Berke called the meeting to order at 11:47 a.m. and G. Burton recorded the minutes. A quorum of Board Members was present, and the meeting proceeded with S. Berke presiding.

Introduction

S. Berke explained that the purpose of the special board meeting is to consider proposals submitted that requested approval prior to the board's 9/8 meeting.

Silver Sunday Fundraising Proposal

The board reviewed the proposal submitted by Carol Cheney and the Stewardship Working Group for the proposed Silver Sundays fundraiser. The board discussed the proposal (which is attached as Exhibit A), noting that the proposal anticipates incidental costs being paid from the proceeds of the prior silver sale or the proceeds of the fundraiser.

MOTION by S. Linsley: to approve the Silver Sundays fundraiser as indicated in the submitted proposal.

Seconded and passed without dissent.

Proposal to Approve the Formation of the Peace Task Force

The board discussed the request to approve the formation of the Peace Task Force. The Social Justice Council Program policies were reviewed to understand the implication of designation as a "task force." Concerns were raised about the budget impact of the designation. It was noted that the Peace Task Force funding request is \$400, which is not in the current budget, but is being funded by the Endowment

Committee. It was noted that the Social Justice Council has approved the creation of the Peace Task Force.

MOTION by P. Duff: that the Board hereby approves the formation of the Peace Task Force as recommended by the Social Justice Council.

Seconded and passed without dissent.

Alternative Meeting Procedures

In response to inquiries about the efficacy of email voting as an alternative method for addressing short notice board requests, G. Burton explained current options of meeting and voting under the bylaws and statutes as follows:

- Special Meetings may be held in person or by teleconference, with a quorum present and may act by majority vote
- The board may act by unanimous written consent of the members, but only with the consent of all board members; a majority is not sufficient. Written consent may be by made by fax or email.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 a.m.

EXHIBIT A

August 16, 2011

FUNDRAISING PROPOSAL

To: USNH Board and Stewardship Work Group
From: Carol Cheney
Re: Silver Sundays

Precedent

Last month a friend of USNH donated a miscellaneous grouping of sterling silver items to the tag sale. The tag sale organizers took the silver to a dealer, obtained an additional competitive bid and sold the silver to the best bidder (local). A whopping \$4,000+ was realized from just one sale. The donor received an acknowledgment for tax purposes and will be able to make a charitable deduction.

Benefits

The initiative does not involve a cash donation, purchase, participation in an event and requires minimal marketing costs and volunteer help. It is a "fresh" idea that does not compete with any other USNH fundraising efforts. Everyone has some sterling tableware or jewelry lying around they're not using or don't care about. (Gold will also be accepted.)

Timing

Collection of sterling will be arranged for three successive Sundays, September 18 and 25, and October 2. Collection will take place in the social hall after each service. Pick ups will be arranged for people who can't get to church. Staging this "campaign" early in the year may mean an adjustment to the amount now needed for eliminating furloughs, which will be announced at the November congregational meeting.

Anticipated Income & Purpose

It is not unrealistic to expect an additional \$5,000-10,000 over the \$4,000 already realized for operating budget relief.

Promotion/Marketing

Promotion of the campaign would be via a postcard mailing to USNH households, our newsletter, website and other appropriate channels. A postcard announcement to USNH households will kick-off Silver Sundays. This will be supplemented by newsletters,

announcements and online follow-ups. We can fund the very modest costs (primarily limited printing and postage) associated with the campaign from the original sale or from subsequent sale. Cheney & Company will donate the design and printing of the postcard.

Recognition

Handwritten thank you notes to everyone who brings in an item(s). A sign-in sheet will be at the collection place (along with Hershey's kisses and silver balloons), and we can provide a donation slip for tax purposes—the donee will have to calculate value except for large donations, which can be individually computed. Each donor will receive a handwritten thank you note.

Person in Charge

I am happy to organize this effort.

[SAMPLE COPY FOR POSTCARD AND NEWSLETTER BLURBS]

[TITLE] WHAT DO YOU DO WITH GRANNY'S PICKLE FORK?

The silver lining in your attic—or,

What do you do with Granny's pickle fork, pancake flipper, sugar tongs, jam spoon, dented candlesticks, and strange little bowls that are collecting dust in your attic?

These forgotten or unused items are valuable to USNH. Our inspiration: a recent donation of miscellaneous sterling silver brought in **\$4,000** to the treasury in July. Help USNH find the silver lining with your rediscovered sterling!

USNH welcomes your donations of sterling silver (or gold) on Silver Sundays:

September 18

September 25

October 2

Drop off your sterling has-beens or gold jewelry in the social hall, and make sure we get your name so we can thank you. Can't get to church? Call and we will arrange to pick up your treasures.