

Nashua Area Interfaith Council Meeting
Wednesday, 6 January 2021, 12 noon

Present:

Rabbi Jon (President); Jim Jensen, Matt Hodgkiss, Jason Wells; Meg Hamm (NAIC Board Member); Meta Vorneham (NAIC Treasurer); Mike Apfelberg; John Rowntree; Rich Bensinger; Franklin Haskell (Past President of NAIC); Andy Armstrong; Anna Molettieri; Karla Tolimiera; Greg Baker; Sylvia Petuck; Bobbie Knickerbocker; Beverly Belus; Tanya Stormo Rasmussen (NAIC Secretary); Sally Newhall (Past President of NAIC); Pam Wellman; Rosemarie Dykeman; Kathy Farland; Joan Goeckel; Aron DiBaco; Judie Bryant; Carlos Jauhola-Straight; Michael Greene (NAIC Vice-President); Michael Reinke; Abimana Ngira; Kelly Turney

Convened at 12:02 p.m. with an Opening Prayer by Rabbi Jon

Ice-Breaker Question: Where have you seen signs of hope of New Life dawning in 2021? If you haven't seen signs yet, where would you like to see them?

- Light from darkness: Resources flowing into Family Promise and United Way, harnessing the generosity of Nashua during the pandemic; \$2.7M
- When Jews express hope, they express it in the plural—it's hard to hope individually, hope builds in community.

Guest Speaker: Kathy Farland, Director of Stepping Stones Drop-in Center

A new homeless youth drop-in center for Greater Nashua young people up to age 25. 3,200 sq. ft. of space in Pine Street Extension.

Day program M-Sat. 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Opened at beginning of December, 2020.

Young people much more likely to go to drop-in center than to a homeless shelter.

They provide: computers, showers, meals, community, assistance with finding education, housing, jobs, benefits they're eligible for, etc.

Work with partner agencies that provide the services: NH Job Corps, Harbor Care, Greater Nashua Mental Health, etc.

Hope eventually (within the next year) to have transitional housing for these young people in dorm-style housing. Share community meals, living, learn life skills.

Greatest needs include: Outreach to kids--getting the word out to vulnerable youth; sleeping bags, mentors, and money/financial support from individual donors and communities willing to support.

Official NAIC Business:

Treasurer's Report:

Main Account: \$2,739.87

CROP Walk Account: \$1,353.97

Choir: \$811.75

Reminder to pay dues. And, our accounts have been examined and are in compliance with the State.

Rosemarie Dykeman: update on the Integrated Delivery Network:

A collaboration of hospitals, doctors' offices, faith communities, social services: The 5-year grant is now winding down; has made great connections for hospitals making connections with houses of faith, recognizing the importance of the "whole person" – see the value & importance of faith as a component of the complete healing of people. Rosemarie believes many of the connections that have been fostered will continue to be constructive and nurtured into the future.

John Rowntree: Representative to Mayor's Task Force on Suicide – last met in Feb, 2020. No updates.

Announcements from around the community:

Rabbi Jon noted that we're an interesting coalition comprised of 2/3 representing faith communities and 1/3 from other nonprofit organizations.

MLK Zoom Celebration Gathering on Saturday, January 16 at 7 p.m.

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Willard Ashley, Sr.

Musical performances from First Baptist Church Chancel Choir, NH Gay Men's Chorus, Julia Leonard (vocal soloist), and others.

Flier and FBC Nashua website link to be sent out in separate emailing.

Also, see online details at: www.fbcnashua.org

Mike Apfelberg: United Way of Greater Nashua

Ø Still have PPE plenty of resources available for community.

Tutoring program that's recently begun but really taking off, helping greater Nashua students. Some in-person, some remote; all supervised. Please let folks know it's available.

Ø Launched initiative to support English Language Learners with their remote learning needs. Developing videos and tutorials to help.

Ø For more information, go to: <https://unitedwaynashua.org/home/our-work/covid-19-response/learn-united/>

Sally Newhall: Jim Leonard (very long-time member of NAIC) has been unwell, please send a note or a card to cheer him up.

Jason Wells, NH Council of Churches:

> TONIGHT (6 Jan. 6 p.m.): A NH Faith-Based (Interfaith) Conversation on COVID-19 and Race including members of the Governor's COVID Equity Task Force. For more information: <https://nhchurches.org/faithcovidence/>

> Dept. of Homeland Security is offering workshops on health and safety for houses of worship—learn more here: <https://nhchurches.org/healthsafety2021/>

> Vaccines are available to Clergy: Applications found here: <https://nhchurches.org/vaccine/>

Jon Spira-Savett (on behalf of Nashua Master Plan Executive Committee):

Community Meeting via Zoom tonight (6 Jan. at 6 p.m.). First phase of Master Plan so far, up to 600 people have participated; they would like to increase that number. Master Plan Task Force is interested to have people come to your/NAIC member communities and share information, get feedback.

To learn more about the Master Plan and for link to tonight's meeting: <https://imagine.nashuanh.gov>

Sylvia Petuck, Abimana Ngira: New Community Health Workers for City of Nashua. Trying to raise awareness of needs and ways to connect; looking to NAIC as one of the sources of information they can share with the communities they're working with.

Meeting Concluded at 1:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tanya Stormo Rasmussen, Secretary