

NAIC General Meeting, April 2, 2025, Rivier University

Attending: John Rowntree, Jocelyn Sharp-Henning, Secretary; Tom Woodward, Danielle Crowe, Bobbie Knickerbocker, Leah Rumsey, Margaret Hamm, Meta Vornehm, Treasurer; Allison Palm, President; Mike Apfelberg, Matt Hodgkiss, Jon Spira-Savett, Tori Markiewicz, Emily Daversa.

On Zoom: Kelly Turney, Tonya Stormo Rasmussen, Judie Bryant, Karla Tolomeo, Marina Vaz, Estela Marts, Nonny Egbuono.

President Allison Palm read a prayer by Lisa Freedman, followed by introductions in person and on Zoom.

Community conversations included, "What does your faith tradition say about immigrants? Are you doing anything supportive?" which was discussed in small groups.

Tori Markiewicz from GSOP, an interfaith nonprofit and community organization, spoke about supporting immigrants in Nashua. She stated that the Nashua Police Department and Manchester PD were not actively working with ICE but this may change due to potential federal and state legislation.

Immigrants with legal visas are being detained. Families are scared and kids are not going to school.

People can help by:

- Volunteering at the Adult Learning Center or Community Engagement Training Center.
- Attending immigrant Solidarity Vigils, the first Tuesday at 9 am outside 275 Chestnut Street, in Manchester.
- Going with immigrants to court dates and ICE appointments.
- Giving families of the detained rides to work, helping their kids on the bus, dropping off groceries, etc.

We should not fill out immigration papers, let an immigrant use a lawyer instead. Don't be a sanctuary church since it is illegal, and puts the church at risk.

Call the Rapid Response Team, at 978 219-7586 if you see ICE officers. GSOP volunteers will record ICE officers and ask where they are taking the detainee.

Tori emphasized what immigrants can be doing:

- Carry proof of legal status.
- Carry a "Red Card" to hand to officers, if needed.

- Don't open door until the person has identified themselves, and if ICE, only allow entry with a valid warrant. The warrant can be slipped under the door to view.
- Memorize the phone of a family member or lawyer.
- Follow all traffic laws, check lights, and make sure there is a valid license to drive.
- Only trust accredited immigration lawyers.

Ways to Help:

- Get on the GSOP email list, become a member, come to Nashua meetings, attend immigrant Solidarity Vigils, and sign up online to oppose anti-immigration bills.
- Distribute Information: Know Your Rights, Red Cards, Hotline Cards, and the Immigration Lawyers list.

Other organizations that are helping immigrants: Ascentria Care Alliance, NH Alliance of Immigrants and Refugees, and NH Catholic Charities.

Treasurer's Report by Meta Vornehm:

Main account: \$22517.60
 Crop Walk: \$1079.10
 Choir: \$2489.63

NAIC is holding the Sacred Poetry Event tomorrow night, April 3rd at 7 pm at the Nashua Library. The May Book Club is the 5th, 12th and 19th online, 6:30 pm.

Announcements

Meta added that immigrants can make an appointment with the City Clerk to make copies of original documents, in color, so they won't be lost.

The **Cultural Festival** will be on Sunday, **September 14th** inside the library, in a more protected environment.

Allison invited all to a "**Building Beloved Community Beyond the Binary**" conference on April 26th at the UU Church in Concord, 8:30-3:30 pm.

On Sunday, April 27, 2-5 pm in the Milford Town Hall is **Lights On! Unity Within Diversity**, an exploration of the Golden Rule to bridge religious and political divides.

Jocelyn will send a photo to members of a man who entered First Church and the Music Community School on Sunday, March 30th, and stole 2 laptops.

On April 5th on Library Hill is the **Hands Off Rally** from 12-2 pm to hold signs about the current events. For more information go to www.handsoff2025.com.

On Thursday, April 10th, 5:30-6:30 pm and Saturday, April 12th, 11-noon all are invited to ask questions of the two developers offering **proposals to redevelop the old Elm Street Middle School into housing**.

April 26th is the **Gate City Bike Sale** at 17 Airport Road in Nashua.

Meta has flyers from Liz Fitzgerald's talk in March if anyone is interested.

Mike from United Way has developed a new **Facebook group for employers and employees** to connect about job openings in the area. So far, 20 employers and 300 people are participating. Go to: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/jobsgreaternashua>

There is also a new **monthly nonprofit meeting** on the 4th Thursday at 4 pm at Soul Sistas at 30 Temple Street. All are invited.

The next NAIC meeting is May 7th at the Nashua Public Library, downstairs, at noon. Sam Durfee from the City of Nashua Planning Department will be our speaker discussing the ReCode project.

Respectfully submitted,
Jocelyn Sharp-Henning, Secretary