

Meeting Notes from the Sept. 8th meeting at Peninsula Temple Sholom

Attended:

Faith House	Name	
Cong. Church of Belmont	Susan	Linares
Congregation Beth Jacob in Redwood City	Jon	Levinson
First Presbyterian Church of Burlingame	Gary	Deatherage
First Presbyterian Church of Burlingame	Vickie	Sherman
Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC)	Oren	Gotesman
LDS (Mormon) in San Bruno	Debbie	Grewal
LDS (Mormon) in San Bruno	Desirae	Barton
Pacifica Institute in Burlingame	Deanna	Kaya
Pacifica Institute in Burlingame	Volkan	Kaya
Peninsula Sinai Congregation (PSC) in Foster City	Dana	Izenson
Peninsula Temple Beth El (PTBE) in San Mateo	Dick	Heiman
Peninsula Temple Beth El (PTBE) in San Mateo	Joel	Miller
Peninsula Temple Beth El (PTBE) in San Mateo	Judy	Miller
Peninsula Temple Beth El (PTBE) in San Mateo	Michele	Epstein
Peninsula Temple Sholom (PTS) in Burlingame	Jeff	Savitz
Peninsula Temple Sholom (PTS) in Burlingame	Judy	Harris
Peninsula Temple Sholom (PTS) in Burlingame	Lionel	Engleman
Santan Mandir Hindu Congregation in San Bruno	Dilip	Amin
Shinnyo-en in Redwood City	Ineko	Tsuchida
St. Andrew's Lutheran in San Mateo	Rev. Connie	Winter-Eulberg
St. Bart's Catholic Church in San Mateo	Deacon John	Sequiera
St. Matthias Catholic Church in Redwood City	Claire	Felong

Introductions and Prayers

- Introductions all around.
- Deacon John gave an opening prayer. The Serenity Prayer
- Dilip Amin gave a 2nd prayer with a chant in Sanskrit.

Labor Day Picnic & Community Cleanup

- Total of 150 attended and 90 showed up for the 4 projects
- About 30 went home and only did projects and did not stay for the picnic.
- Jeff Savitz led the litter pickup project.
- Claire Felong led the weeding project
- Joann Aviel led the chip spreading project
- Rick D'Onofrio led the deck painting project
- Do we want to do this again? Very successful? Plenty of parking; location was very good.
- Most of the group would probably vote for another picnic for next year
- Some organized activity would be helpful for next year - especially for kids.
- Will help as if will probably be at the same location.
- Everything worked out fine and should probably do this again.
- Pictures of this event are posted at: <http://www.peninsulamultifaith.org/prior-events/>

Other

- Lionel talked about the flyer from Ineko T. for the educational event on the 23rd of October.
- How can each congregation promote this event?
- Rev Kristi can help with the promotion per Susan L.

MLK Jr. Day of Service

- Lionel: MLK day has been very successful and Dick and Vickie have really worked hard
- Group needs to understand and comment on this event
- Dick talked about the history of the MLK day event.
- 175 people the 1st year; 380 the 2nd year;
- Especially successful with parents and children promoting interfaith harmony and community service.
- Prepare for a potential of almost 500 for 2015.
- 9 out of 15 captains have been assigned.
- Vicki S is the MLK Day co-chair
- Handouts all around with a lot of the details of MLK day
- Warm clothing project was very good but we got no response from the recipients
- Dick also asked congregations to fill in approx how many will attend in 2015.
- Three schools have been identified with very cooperative principals and captains assigned to all 3
- The schools are: Fair Oaks, John Gill, & North Shoreview

Volunteer satisfaction and a successful event

- VolunteerMatch.org rep met with Karen, Dick and Vickie to talk about enhancing volunteer project experience.
- Lunches should be provided for volunteers if appropriate and also makes for more appreciation.
- Each project captain can make this lunch decision and provide this recommendation.
- Good communication system ahead of the event.
- What makes an event successful?
- Good effort to match volunteers skills to project
- What are you doing and why are you doing it.
- Several flexible projects that can expand at the last minute are already in the project list.
- Be sure and welcome everyone.
- Answer volunteer questions at site.
- Have tools & equipment available at project sites.
- Thank volunteers and give them something in writing with our contact info, etc.
- Ask if they want to do more in the future.
- Give them a bridge to another experience.
- Thank again with photos and personalized message from each project that was represented.
- Cultivate volunteers for on-going projects.
- Lionel asked Vickie to provide an outline of these details regarding volunteers.
- Gary suggested giving a prayer at the beginning of the project.
- Joel suggested giving each volunteer a t-shirt.
- We need project leaders as well as project captains.
- List in packet of potential project leaders - per Dick H.

Breakfast on MLK Day:

- Breakfast location is still in the air
- Deanna: Kitchen / Breakfast. We don't yet have a site. If at 1st pres - we can have 250 or so.
- Best idea is to split breakfast location to accommodate everyone
- Last year, the problem was timing with breakfast too early or too late for projects
- How can we balance projects with breakfast? Dick said that most projects will start early or right after breakfast,
- Right site is critical to avoid bottlenecks, etc, better to have two sites instead of two shifts.

- Gary thinks it's more exciting to have everyone at the same location.
- Claire said that two sites might encourage more circulation among faiths.
- Many at the meeting expressed the idea that two sites will work better.
- Organize the tables around project teams.
- Get your seat 1st before getting breakfast. Have everyone wait and then proceed in an orderly fashion.
- Deanna will evaluate the two site idea. She will outline the necessary details to make this work and report at the next meeting. She will recruit a co-captain.

Projects for MLK Day

Soldiers / Veterans

- Something to honor soldiers as a project
- Soldiers / Military: Volunteer opportunities to provide soldiers with transportation, etc. Lionel will meet with Michelle Tandowsky to brainstorm some ideas regarding soldiers / veterans.
- Claire can provide a list of what soldiers overseas would want. We then would have to donate items and volunteers could box items up.

Literacy project & Wish List

- What else might this lead to?
- Vickie: start early looking for books with collection bins at faith houses.
- Books collected and then sorted.
- Jewish Literacy group will put books into correct groups.
- Also collect Spanish language books.
- We need some more specific details about appropriate books.
- Huge sale coming up at San Francisco library and this could provide books.
- Also local libraries at San Carlos and Belmont have book sales.
- Promote book sales at each congregation.
- Put specifics on appropriate books on flyer.
- Project captains at the schools should discuss books with principals at their next meetings.
- Various congregations would have bins.
- PMC could provide pre-labeled containers and we need to really think this out.
- There could be a wish list for clothing and another for books.
- On the website, we could provide a wish list of possible donations/suggestions.
- Do we want children's' shoes on our wish list?

Other Projects

- They really need children's clothing and also warm coats for Safe Harbor and Workers Resource Center at Samaritan House.
- Gary: how many day laborers will be there on MLK Day at the Workers Resource Center and we could then provide some sort of meal: but no kitchen facilities
- Gary emailed the volunteer coordinator and is waiting on an answer.
- My new Red Shoes: <http://www.mynewredshoes.org/>
- Once a year they provide new shoes and a uniform for homeless kids or disadvantaged kids contained in a hand-sewn gift bag
(From the My New Red Shoes website: Through this volunteer project, group members sew hand-made gift bags that the shoes and gift card are placed in. This is an easy, hands-on project that can be set up at your location or can be done on-site at our office/warehouse if you provide a volunteer who knows how to sew.)
- Vickie demonstrated an actual gift bag.
- This organization has given away 26,000 pairs of shoes.
- Our group of volunteers could make the bags and write the notes.
- Sewing machines need to be borrowed to use that day and we could get fabric donated.

- Our volunteers could sew 250 - 300 bags.
- We need to get volunteers who have sewing experience.
- Dick asked for more project leaders.

2015 PARTICIPANT ESTIMATION

- 10 congregations submitted estimates of the number of their congregants who would participate in 2015. The additional total over 2014 is 121. So, with the 380 who participated in 2014, the new estimate for 2015 is already 501. However, this includes 71 dropins in 2014, which we will probably discourage.
- ACTION ITEM: We still need estimates from the following:
 - St. Paul's - Lisa S
 - Pacifica - Deanna
 - St. Bart's - Deacon John
 - JCRC - Karen W

Financial aspects of MLK Day:

- We're hoping that congregations will step up and provide financial support.
- Many budgets are being worked on now and so we need congregations to put money in their budgets for MLK event.
- Last year the budget was \$4500 - \$5000 and this year's budget could be as high as \$15,000.
- We also need individual donations.
- Go back to your faith house to set aside some funds. We will get more details as project costs / estimates are computed.
- We can also get donated items from Bi-Rite, Home Depot, etc,
- We could ask for donations as part of a wish list.
- Jeff S could provide last year's financial contributions for each faith house.

Next Meetings

- Next meeting is Sept 22nd. At Pacifica Institute
- October 20th will probably be at St. Bart's.