

Food Justice Team Minutes
April 22, 2025, 7pm, via Zoom

Attendees: Cathy Muha, Merrill Crockett, Ruth Vail, Connie McGuire (note taker)

Absent: Larry and Sue Schweinhart, Levi Walls, Vinny Jonna, Amy Eberbach, Julie Mitchell, Jenni Taylor, Preeti Gadhoke

April Tasting Table - Cookbook Exchange

- Cathy will staff the table after 1st service. Ruth will be at the table after 2nd service.
- Cathy submitted an article for last week's *Weekly News* encouraging folks to bring cookbooks to swap.
- Merrill will bring two vintage Ann Arbor cookbooks to display.
- Connie suggested checking with the UUAA Library Team to see if there's a copy of the congregational cookbook that could be displayed.
- If you're bringing a cookbook(s) please consider making something from that cookbook for sharing at the table.

Recap of "Cultivating Sovereignty: Black Farmers Building Community" panel discussion on 3/26/25

Those who attended this panel discussion found it to be informative regarding the challenges faced by Black farmers in Washtenaw County, as well as an inspirational example of the joys associated with farming.

SGD Forum on Opportunities for Collaboration with Social Justice Groups, March 30

- Stella and the SGD Committee organized this forum to explore ways to enhance collaboration between the SGD program and social justice leaders.
- SGD is creating a checklist for groups that want to participate in their programming that they hope to share with the social justice groups in the fall.

Church Auction Oktoberfest dinner (Oct. 11 at Merrill's house)

- There will be a maximum of 12 guests.
- The donation form needs to be submitted soon. Cathy will contact Levi, who has lived in Germany, about filling out the form for the Auction Committee.

Vision Session - Saturday, August 23 at Cathy's house

- The Vision Session will be in the afternoon, beginning at 1pm.
- Discussed the idea of having a facilitator from outside the Food Justice Team. Connie will check with the Leadership Development Team about enlisting a facilitator.
- One topic for discussion will be: What process does the Food Justice Team want to create to decide whether we will co-sponsor an event or initiative sponsored by another UUAA group. The FJT currently does not have a policy or procedure to make this type of decision, which came to light when we were invited by the UUs for Justice in the Middle East to co-sponsor UUA's Resolution on "Solidarity With Palestinians: Action for Immediate Witness."

Social Justice "Connection" on Farm Stops

- The Connection is scheduled for Sunday, June 15th, which will be one service at 10:30am.
- The speakers will be Patrick Zieske of Agricole in Chelsea and Tess Rian of Argus Farm Stop in Ann Arbor.
- Connie will forward the revised "SJ Connection" guidelines to Cathy.

"Eating for Tomorrow" movie

Cathy has not heard back from the distributors regarding possible copyright restrictions associated with having a public showing of this film, or from the Ann Arbor District Library as to whether they would sponsor a showing of the film. She will try one more time to get answers to these questions.

VegUU Potluck

Larry and Sue reported there were 18 people at the April 12th potluck. The program included a presentation by Gaia Kile, the author of *Menu of Hope*.

Next potluck: May 10, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m

Social Justice Fair

- Scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 21.
- Those present were in favor of having a Food Justice table at the Fair and suggested that there be uniform signage to identify each group's table. None of those present expressed an interest in helping to plan the event.
- Discussion led to the idea of having a "speed dating" approach, rather than the standard table set-up with a display about each social justice group. This approach would emphasize conversation between the groups and congregants who are interested in learning about a group's mission and activities.
- Connie will forward FJT's ideas to Sissel Bridges, organizer of this year's Social Justice Fair.

New email list

The email address for members of the FJT has been changed from met-steering@uuuaa.org (created for the group under its former name, Mindful Eating Team) to foodjustice-steering@uuuaa.org. Cathy and Connie are in the process of updating the membership roster to remove folks who are no longer participating in the group.

Summer meetings

Those present decided to cancel FJT's July meeting.

Upcoming Events

- Pop up bake sale at Argus Café on Packard to support the Argus Farm Stop Food Access Fund on Saturday, April 26, 11am-1pm
- Food & Sustainability Community Conversation at Michigan Friends Center in Chelsea on Sunday, April 27, 2:00-3:30pm
- 3rd annual A2 Climate Teach-In at UUAA on Saturday, May 4, 1:30-5:15pm

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 27, 7pm