



TEAM Westport Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2016, 8:00 AM
Room 309, Westport Town Hall, Westport, CT

TW January 12, 2016

Attendees: Harold Bailey (Presiding), Judy Hamer, Zoe Tarrant, Catherine Onyemelukwe, Maggie Mudd, Dolores Paoli, Susan Ellis, Bernicestine McLeod, Brett Aronow

Guests: Catherine Lewis, Savitri Horrigan, Kelle Ruden

Harold called the meeting to order at 8:10 AM

Approval of minutes: Susan moved that the minutes from our December 2nd, 2015 meeting be approved. Judy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Catherine Lewis was introduced and discussed her work on the faculty of the Ackerman institute in New York. She will be working with Zoe on the forthcoming Conversation on Race focused on what we tell our kids about race.

New Business:

What's Up?

- Susan recommended the exhibit of quilts at the Bruce Museum (opens Friday night).
- Susan also recommended the forthcoming Broadway production – *“Eclipsed”* featuring Lupita Nyong'o.
- Zoe announced that *“Last Stop on Market Street”* won the Newberry Award.
- Catherine Onyemelukwe discussed the charge made by Rev. Morehouse to his congregation at the Unitarian Church re: taking an active stand on racial issues.

Old Business:

Westport Library

- WestportReads – *“Miracle at St. Anna”*
 - Kelle reported on very engaging sessions so far with the 2016 WestportReads programming including session last weekend with Westporter Trey Ellis – screenwriter of the film *“Tuskegee Airmen”* following the screening of the film.
 - Coming events include the
 - Saturday, January 16 screening of the “Secret of Santa Vittoria” (to be introduced by Maggie)
 - Saturday, January 23 event with author James McBride at the Playhouse
 - Sunday, January 24 WWII Partisans event
 - Monday, January 25 TEAM Westport book discussion at Barnes and Noble
 - Tuesday, February 9 Black Heroes at D-Day (*“Forgotten”*) Book Discussion
 - There is also an exhibit at the Library of a timeline of African-American Military Service in the U.S.
- James Baldwin
 - We are still looking for a speaker for the March 12 event. Maggie has approached several without success to date. Kelle will be approaching a UConn professor. Harold mentioned potentially approaching author of the new book *“Democracy in Black”*
- Monthly Current Events Discussion Sessions
 - Kelle is working with Althea Seaborn on scheduling monthly discussion sessions on current events at the Library.



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Old Business (cont'd):

Essay Contest

- Posters are ready for distribution toward the end of January. Letters have gone out to Staples and private schools. Still working on a sponsor. Dolores agreed to have her company - Saffron Road - sponsor the \$500 Award. Info has been posted on our website, written up twice by Dan Woog's blog, and distributed to Youth groups in churches. Other organizations will be contacted as well including the Interfaith Council.

Project Implicit

- Judy led discussion of the Project Implicit online bias testing tool as well as the Institute which maintains it. Question was whether they could/would consolidate results for all takers from a given group such as a town. For those interested, the objective would be to get a benchmark followed by periodically retaking the exam to see how things might have changed.
- Judy is forwarding information to all TW members so they can take one of the tests and be prepared to discuss the experience at our February 2 meeting.

MLK Event

- TW is co-sponsoring the tenth annual MLK Event with the Interfaith Council and the Westport Playhouse on Sunday, January 17 at the Playhouse. Keynote speaker will be Prof. Marilyn Ford. There will also be participation by area choirs including the Staples Orphenians. Many streams of communication have already gone out. There will be a separate parallel session for kids.

Diverse Books

- Zoe reports improvement over the past year in the uptake of the Westport Children's Library and School System re: proactively ensuring diverse books are a significant part of the books displayed and featured in programming.
- Zoe is hosting a Brown bag lunch on talking about race with children for the CT Association of Marriage and Family Therapists.
- Conversation on Race (how do we talk to our children about race) targeted for this Spring. Zoe is working with Catherine Lewis on this and is also speaking with ADL about it.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 AM. The next meeting date will be February 2, 2016 in Room 201 of Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernicestine McLeod
Secretary