



**TEAM Westport Meeting Minutes**  
**June 7, 2016, 8:00 AM**  
**Room 201, Westport Town Hall, Westport, CT**

**Attendees:** Maggie Mudd, Judy Hamer, Catherine Onyemelukwe, Dolores Paoli, Harold Bailey (Presiding), Bernicestine McLeod, and Zoe Tarrant

**Guests:** David Vita, Catherine Lewis, and Ramin Ganeshram

The meeting was called to order at 8:08AM.

**Approval of Minutes:** Catherine moved that the minutes from our May 3, 2016 meeting be approved with a correction. Maggie seconded. The minutes were approved and will be posted.

**What's Up:**

1. There was an event at Grace Farms (New Canaan) on June 3<sup>rd</sup> entitled *Explore Faith | Discussing Islam* featuring Dr. Kareem Adeeb who had a conversation with the audience about the Islamic faith and how Christians and Muslims can work together. Dr. Adeeb is Imam of the American Institute for Islamic and Arabic Studies and President of the Interfaith Council of Southwestern Connecticut.
2. Statistics on the rape and sexual assault of college-aged females are astounding.
3. There will be a party at the Senior Center on June 29<sup>th</sup> for Barbara Butler as she retires.
4. We briefly discussed the current political climate particularly in light of the Presidential campaigns. The country has still not fully recovered from the economic debacle of 2008 and people are still hurting and are disillusioned. How will this all play out given the presumptive candidates and their professed points of view?

**Programming**

1. **Essay contest recap:** The ceremony at the Westport Library on May 16<sup>th</sup> was very nice. The three winning essays were powerful and really came across even more so when they were read. Everyone was excited. Coverage has been posted on our website and on FaceBook. Also *Inklings* (Staples newspaper) had a great piece about the contest and the winners. Dan Woog featured the winning essay in his blog. We are seeking funding to support future essay contests and other TEAM Westport programming. Potential sources are being identified.
2. **Playhouse/Interfaith:** David Kennedy, Associate Artistic Director of the Westport Country Playhouse, is contacting speakers in preparation for conversations, discussions, and other programming during the run of "The Invisible Hand" ( July 19<sup>th</sup> through August 6<sup>th</sup>). TEAM Westport is suggesting additional speakers and resources and ways to approach programming and to encourage conversations by our community.
3. **'Westport Kids Need More Diverse Books':** We are still meeting to determine the initial approach and the initial target audience for a discussion about what and how to teach our children about race. However, we will set a date at the Westport Library for the fall. There are organizations that give workshops focusing upon raising children to understand racial and social justice that can provide possible models for our session(s).



**TEAM Westport Meeting Minutes**  
**June 7, 2016, 8:00 AM**  
**Room 201, Westport Town Hall, Westport, CT**

4. Youth Engagement: This effort should take off this fall. Additional students have shown an interest in joining a youth "TEAM Westport". Also, three students are now working on a project on anti-racism.
5. Follow-on Conversations (?):
  - a. Are we ready for a female president?
    - i. What'll be different?
    - ii. What is the expectation?
    - iii. Are we "post-gender"?
  - b. Should we discuss the article about Oberlin and campus activism in the *New Yorker Magazine* (May 30, 2016)? TEAM Westport members should discuss internally at least. Other incidents have occurred recently across the country on college campuses and other locations with regard to historical names and their association with slavery such as Calhoun (Yale).

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45AM.

Our next meeting will take place on Tuesday, July 12, 2016, at 8:00AM in Room 201, Westport Town Hall, Westport, CT.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernicestine McLeod  
Secretary