

November 12th, 2024 Program Team/Board Minutes

Present: Daksha Baumann, Lola Bogyo, Ralph Chapman, John Epstein, Anne Ferrara, Tony Ferrara, Annie Guppy, Joanna Hefferen, Elaine Hewes, Sheila Moir, Emily Blair Stribling, Joan Tibbetts, Gary Vencill

Facilitator: Daksha Baumann and Elaine Hewes

Scribe: Anne Ferrara

Opening: Invite from Daksha to take a relaxed position, and move into several minutes of silence to center ourselves.

The minutes of the October 8th, 2024 meeting were approved.

Ongoing Programs: Tai Chi, Art Club, Buddhist Meditation continue as scheduled with good attendance. Sonia Turanski has requested that her Buddhist study/meditation be moved from Monday evening to Sunday morning. This request was approved. Women's Circle continues to meet on the first Sunday of the month but has changed its time for the winter months – now meeting from 2 to 3:30. This is to allow all to drive home in daylight.

Upcoming Programs: The *Gallery Within* will hold an exhibit titled, *Be Still: Winter Solstice*. Dropoff will take place on 11/16 from 1 to 4. The show will be hung on 11/20. The exhibit will open to the public on 11/24 and close on 1/12/25 – open for viewing on Saturday and Sunday.

Book Group will meet on 11/18 at 11 am.

Joyful Noise will meet on 1/12/25, probably at 1:30

Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Celebration will take place on 1/19/2025. Elaine will contact Rob Shetterly about having some of his portraits from his Peacemakers series available for showing.

Joan T. reports that Frederica Marshall would like to use our space to offer a Talisman Workshop on March 8th, 2025 from 10 to 3. She will split proceeds with RFS.

Anne shared that Heather Retberg (Quills End Farm) is looking for a space and collaborators to screen the documentary, *Weapons of the Spirit*, the story of the Huguenot community in France during WW II, and their resistance to Naziism and their work to save thousands of their Jewish neighbors.

We had been invited by Elaine to consider the following questions for our joint Program/Board meeting today:

- *Where does your passion and joy meet a RFS need/hope?*
- *What is one thread you would be ever-so-glad to pick up and see where it leads?*
- *How do our responses to the first two questions inform (shape) our next steps? Our next six months.*

Here are the responses to these prompts.

- Elaine and Emily would like to create another series involving artists, poets and musicians – this is where their passion and joy meet. Dates and times to be decided.
- Joan would like to continue her work inviting and encouraging artists to use our space to create together. She will also work with the Blue Hill Co-op to have a recurring exhibit there each year in the month of June. (Joan's passion - *anything/everything art*)
- Annie, Lola and Joanna will collaborate to explore the needs of the younger members of our community and see how we at RFS could be of service to this demographic. Meeting with young leaders, hosting a RFS event at TinderHearth, sending out a survey to the young are some of the ideas they shared. They all share this passion – to bring new and younger people into RFS.

- Sheila and Gary, with support from Bec, are interested in bringing back celebrations of joy and fun and music and food. This might start with an Avis Poole Chowder Supper.
- John is committed to making our space safe and accessible for years to come. He is working closely with Mike H. to repair the steeple – fundraising and grant writing, maybe not passions, but necessary ingredients for keeping RFS alive and relevant.
- Ralph is deeply concerned about the area of mining in Maine, and would be interested in creating an event where those who worked at and those who were and are still being affected by the Callahan Mine in Harborside would have a chance to tell their stories. This area – the devastating effects of mining in Maine – has been Ralph’s passion for many years.
- Anne’s joy and passion are around ritual and will continue to put energy into events like the Advent Spiral and Equinox and Solstice celebrations.
- Tony’s attention is on the care of Mother Earth and the intersection of Climate work and Peace work. Eco-Spirituality is his passion.
- Daksha’s joy and passion revolves around art exhibits and workshops. She is also deeply committed to the idea of RFS hiring a HUB person – Program Director – and is pursuing possible grants to make this a reality. She is currently looking into funding available from the Maine Community Foundation, the Libre Foundation and the Pulliam Grant awarded by the UU Church in Castine.

Next meeting: Tuesday, December 10th, 4 pm

Facilitator: Anne F.

Scribe: