

## **Carbondale Interfaith Council April 2018 Meeting Minutes**

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 22, 2018 6pm University Baptist Church  
700 S. Oakland Ave. Carbondale, IL 62901**

April's meeting was held at Gaia House, on April 24, 2018 from 6pm to 8pm.

Scott Martin and Al Crim provided reflections on the Baha'i Faith.

1. March's meeting minutes were approved unanimously as read by Rebecca Marten.
2. Jack Wides was out of town, so no treasurer's report given. We were told that CAIRS has received 2 donations so far, and that dues letters have been mailed out.
3. The RAID program "Welcoming the Stranger" held on April 15, 2018 went very well. The event ran on time and had some discussion with audience participation. There were not a lot of CIC members that showed up, and members were asked to participate in future RAID events and talk them up to their congregations. PR does need to be worked on to get the word out to the larger community as well. The next RAID program will be in conjunction with Pride Week; "Coming out in Faith". It will be on June 3, 2018 from 2 to 4pm at Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship. Kim Maguire has agreed to be a speaker and is working on other people to speak too. On October 23, 2018 with the Council's Taste of Faith meeting there will a RAID event, a Wahtsaht Ceremony held at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. If anyone is interested in participating please reach out to Maurine Pyle.
4. Patty Mullen was unable to attend, but Scott Martin and Maurine Pyle provided some information about the Good Samaritan House. The Carbondale Interfaith Council started Good Sam many years ago, which has now branched off on its own. We discussed how some individuals were unable to get into Good Sam during the cold weather this past winter and Gaia House opened its doors as a warming center. This is not able to be a permanent solution during those times of need. Scott and Patty sat and talked for about 2 hours about the challenges Good Sam faced this past winter, and it was said that some rules are changing to help accommodate people during the cold. The previous owners of The Haven of Love property is wanting to give the property to Good Samaritan. They lost funding and are trying to find someone to take over the property. It is set up for kids, with shorter bathrooms, air conditioning and heat. This is going to be discussed at their next meeting. The 5k fundraiser with the Co-Op raised around \$3600!
5. Becca Marten let us know that she has gained access to the website and is slowly learning and updating this as she can. She is going to send out a test email from the listserv to make sure everyone is receiving her emails.
6. On Tuesday April 17, 2018 the Race Unity group held a talk about Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr. and the Montgomery Bus boycott. The Eurma Hayes center is having a fundraiser on

May 6, 2018 at 4pm with a dinner. The Race Unity group will have a table and if anyone else would be interested to reach out.

7. The Sparrow Coalition has the 2018 brochures available. They are talking about the possibility of collecting items left in the SIU dorms after the students move out. There was a suggestion made to have brochures or signs in the dorms to let students know that if they would like to donate items where they can take them. Sparrow Coalition members are still collecting items for their hygiene bags. We also learned that Marleen Shepherd received the Governor's Volunteer Service Award for her work with The Sparrow Coalition.

8. The CAIRS group is still collecting items to be donated to the St. Louis International Agency. We were informed that the St. Louis International Agency had to let some of their staff go due to budget restraints.

9. Ellen Jahn, president of Gaia House presented us with an update on what is happening at Gaia House. They are currently working on getting the building back to a functioning work space, by working on the HVAC system, mold removal and painting. They work on a very small budget, with no paid employees. All work is being done as 100% volunteer effort. They are also working on making sure all is correct with their 501c3 paperwork. Ellen let us know they are looking at holding some fundraisers to help with the building maintenance, but are always happy to accept donations. Donations can be made on their website [www.ourgaiahouse.org](http://www.ourgaiahouse.org). They are also looking for events to hold at the Gaia House that are within the realm of their mission statement. The Pride Walk on June 2, 2018 will begin at Gaia House with a youth party held there afterwards.

10. There is a planned roundtable discussion to be had regarding homelessness in Carbondale. Jeff Grubbs, Carbondale Chief of Police has agreed to be there, with the possibility of other city officials as well. They will be talking about the challenges that are faced during the very hot and cold days throughout the year.

#### Announcements:

- Ramadan will start on May 15, 2018 and finish on June 15, 2018.
- The For Kids Sake are auction will close on April 27, 2018 with a reception at Longbranch Cafe from 5 to 8pm
- The Parliament of World Religions will be November 1 - 7, 2018 in Toronto, Canada. Registration is still open for anyone interested.
- Christina Krost with Faith in Place, an interfaith organization focused on environmental sustainability will be moving to Southern Illinois soon. It was suggested that we ask her to come make a presentation to the council in the fall.
- The 150th anniversary of Memorial Day is this year with many programs being held in the area. On May 5, 2018 at 2pm there will be a free play at Carbondale Community High School. On Monday May 28, 2018 there are lots of events happening in the area for the sesquicentennial. For more details you can contact the General John A. Logan Museum director Michael Jones (618) 303-0569 or [director@loganmuseum.org](mailto:director@loganmuseum.org).

- SIH is hosting Transforming Loss: Finding Potential for Growth on May 1, 2018 from 1pm - 3:30pm at the John A. Logan College Conference Center Room F-119.
- Kara Dunkel is still collecting items to take for the Pinhook resettlement project. She will be making a trip mid-May. Feel free to reach out to Kara at [karadunk5@gmail.com](mailto:karadunk5@gmail.com) to arrange pick-up/ drop-off of any donations.

Adjourned 7:21pm