

Draft
RŪT Education Committee Minutes
4/10/24

Attending: Julia Lavine – Chair; Pat Yosha; Misty Crompton; Sue Mayo; Nancy Zajano

DEIJ Director’s Dinner

- Misty learned from RŪT treasurer Jonathan Ring that the Education Committee has \$500 available for the DEIJ directors’ dinner.
- Misty is drafting an invitation to the dinner with the tentative date, time and venue as June 20, 2024 at 6 pm at The Holy Grail in Epping, NH
- Misty will check with The Holy Grail to see if a private room is available.
- Misty will send an email to the 6 DEIJ directors to ask if they are interested in the dinner and if the June 20th date works for them.
- Invitations will go out by 5/20/24.
- The theme for the dinner will be “Celebrating Diversity in the 603.”
- Julia Lavine will provide an opening reading.
- The DEIJ directors are:
 - Rachael Blansett, ORCSD DEIJ Coordinator; rblansett@orcscd.org
 - Christina Philibotte, Chief Equity Officer, Manchester School District; tphilibotte@mansd.org
 - Andrés Mejía, SAU 16 DEIJ Director; amejia@sau16.org
 - Kevin Pajaro-Mariñez, PEA Assistant Director of Equity & Inclusion; kpmarinez@exeter.edu
 - Dr. Stephanie S. Bramlett, PEA Dir. of Equity & Inclusion; sbramlett@exeter.edu
 - Quinci Worthey, Dir. of DEIJ, Concord Public Schools; qworthey@sau8.org
- More details about future planning are in the *RŪT DEIJ Director Dinner Planning* document at this link:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/16kVdeZSqCgJ9Z5iPSfBbUlmPVfQ0fv-i4ru1tiOvUb4/edit>

Frederick Douglass Community Reading of “What to the Slave is Your Fourth of July”

- There is a problem securing insurance for using the Exeter Town Hall for this event, as we have done in the past. Foye Insurance says it will cost us \$1000 this year rather than the \$200 we have paid in the past. The reason is the word “Racial” in our name and the insurance company’s fear that it could invite some trouble with some groups in the larger community, despite the fact that there has been no trouble in the past.

- Pat is checking with the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Exeter about using their church for the event. There would be no charge for insurance and the church feels this event is “in keeping with their mission.” They are checking on the June 25, 2024 date that has been set by the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire as the day for 13 NH communities to host the community reading at the same date and time. The UU church may have a conflict because another organization has booked to use the church that day. We are waiting for a final response.
- Pat and others feel we should respond with pushback to the insurance company, having the courage of our convictions and not letting this example of “racial bias” go without a response. The pushback could come in the form of a letter to the editor or another public response.

Banned Books Program

- Pat is working with Water Street Bookstore to hold an event during Banned Books Month in September to jointly highlight the book challenges that have become so frequent in schools. More details to follow.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Zajano, April 11, 2024