

Falmouth, Cape Cod, MA



FDTC Monthly Meeting Minutes: July 15, 2014

Megan English Braga, Chair of the FDTC, began the meeting by introducing **Jordan Jensen**, Falmouth High School graduating senior, who won the Thelma Goldstein Award this year. He and **Thelma** were photographed together. **Megan** read a list of Jordan's many accomplishments. He thanked Thelma and said that he was going to Clemson University next fall in Bioengineering. He hopes to become a pilot in the Air Force.



Thelma Goldstein and Jordan Jensen

Megan announced the annual FDTC picnic which is going to be August 19 from 5-7 pm on the patio at Dillingham Place. Please contact **Ruth Beckett** at papa@alum.mit.edu if you can attend and tell her what you can bring. There has been a successful FDTC Fundraising event on Sunday, July 26 from 4-6 pm at the home of Charlie McCaffrey. Finally **Randy Azzato**, 2016 candidate for Sheriff, had a fundraiser on July 23rd at The Beach House Restaurant and the Falmouth Enterprise publicized the event. Please view his website at: www.AzzatoForSheriff.com for

more information.

Megan introduced our topic for the evening: *Restorative Justice*. The first speaker was **Christy Barbee**, a trainer on restorative justice, now working at a Malden High School project on restorative justice. She defined the concept as "A process to involve, to the extent possible, those who have a stake in an offense and to collectively identify and address harms, needs and obligations, in order to heal and put things as right as possible." The process can work as a supplement to the criminal justice system, and its aim is to meet victim needs, hold an offender accountable, explore the impact of the crime on the community, and agree on a constructive consensus plan of repair to the extent possible as well as making communities safer.

What is the way these goals are achieved? There are different ways such as planned victim encounter circles, facilitated discussions, victim impact panels, and the use of restorative practices in schools. Does this work? There is a higher satisfaction rate for victims using this method than for those proceeding

through the traditional court system only. Recidivism is reduced for offenders; costs savings are achieved in addition to there being more options for the court and a more meaningful role for affected community members. Local training for such programs should match community needs.

The second speaker was **Fran Lightsom** who spoke to us from the Quaker perspective on these issues. She made several points: we do not need to reinvent the wheel; we can't outsource a program of restorative justice, as we, the community have to be a part of the plan; and we can join a program already in progress. She noted that State Senator, **Jamie Eldridge**, has introduced Senate Bill 71 to promote restorative justice practices. Our rep, **Tim Madden and Dan Wolf**, have supported this legislation. She noted that circle processes are commonly used to resolve issues, but that experienced and trained facilitators are needed.

The group, Cape Cod Communities for Restorative Justice, started in October at the Friends Meeting House in Falmouth. The group meets Saturday mornings to practice circles and meets the second Sunday of every month at 3 p.m. for further discussion. **Fran** ended by stating that restorative justice is about compassionate accountability as well as financial accountability and that these are things Democrats care about.

The final speaker was **Dr. Ambrose Jearld**, who described the way he got involved in the restorative justice movement. He is a scientist from Woods Hole who felt the need to address these issues and was looking for a way to get involved. He attended meetings at the Friends Meeting House. He wants to



Christy Barbee, Ambrose Jearld, Fran Lightsom

reach a broad and diverse group in our area, including people from Mashpee. All candidates for office should be made familiar with restorative justice practices, and we should support bills at the State House. UMass Boston has a department focused on these issues and a transformational prison program. He

was asked how young people with mental health issues can be targeted. He said this was a vital issue as was the need to reduce the growing prison population. Restorative Justice may be one way to make that reduction. Sheriff candidate, **Randy Azzato**, got up to state that he felt these were important practices to implement at the local level.



Meeting attendees

Calendar: August 19 Annual FDTC picnic at Dillingham Place, from 5-7. Please rsvp to Ruth Beckett at papa@alum.mit.edu with what you can bring to this potluck.

Submitted by **Kirstin Moritz**, Newsletter Editor and **Lloyd**

Beckett, photographs.

FDTC Officers:

Chair: **Megan English Braga** at 508-540-3434 Ext. 4 and attymeb@gmail.com

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Please note that membership dues should now be submitted. Thank you.

Annual Membership Fiscal Year: April 1 to March 31, 2016

Name: Precinct:

Address and Telephone:

Email Address:

Elected Committee Member (\$25 a year)_____

Associate Member (\$15 a year)_____

Newsletter by U.S. Mail is \$10 extra a year_____

Total Donation: \$_____ Send check to FDTC, P.O. Box 312, Falmouth, MA 02541