

## Agenda

### Welcome and Roll Call

### Review and Acceptance of February 13th, 2023 Meeting Minutes

### Work Groups

- MLK Celebration Review
- Multicultural Festival

### Old Business

- Welcome Stickers
- Genocide Awareness - Yom HaShoah
  - Celebration with Temple B’Nai Israel - Sat. May 6<sup>th</sup> 4pm
- Looking forward - 2023 (see attached vision & mission)

### New Business

- Banners on City Hall - see attached discussion paper
- Other business
- Next Meeting Room 200A, Monday April 10, 2023, at 3:30pm also via Zoom

### Public Comment -

The public is invited to offer their opinions. Initially, they will be limited to four minutes until all have had an opportunity to speak. Each person is constrained to their time period or to ask questions of the committee. Everyone is expected to speak respectfully.

If on Zoom, the public will be visible but muted until unmuted by the chair. Members of the public wishing to speak will use the “raise hand” option.

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**Note: The meeting will also be held online through Zoom and will begin at 3:30pm although people are encouraged check in early. Contact David Stamps, 387-4382 if you are having trouble connecting.**

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.  
Topic: Human Relations Commission

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81922296874?pwd=M0E4a1pES0VGV0Rsa1hmTOZDU3Bmdz09>

Passcode: 793636

Or One tap mobile :

US: +16465588656,,81922296874#,,,,\*793636# or +13017158592,,81922296874#,,,,\*793636#

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 646 558 8656 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 669 900 9128 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799

Webinar ID: 819 2229 6874

Passcode: 793636

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81922296874>

## LACONIA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

### Vision & Mission

**Approved 12-17-2019**

Vision:

The Laconia Human Relations Committee envisions a world where everyone is treated with dignity, fairness, respect, and kindness.

Mission Statement:

The Committee shall strive to:

- a) Cultivate a community-wide climate that does not tolerate prejudice of any kind which undermines the dignity of any person.
- b) Engage every individual, group and organization in Laconia in support of our vision.
- c) Educate ourselves and our children about the presence and dehumanizing impact of any prejudicial attitudes that are currently at work in our community.
- d) Promote, in as many segments of our community life as is possible, policies and practices which encourage equal opportunity through equity and justice for all.
- e) Proactively resist and publicly condemn any practices or incidents in our community which either result from or might encourage prejudice, intolerance, harassment and discrimination.

Objectives:

The Committee shall:

- a) Educate about and establish a comfort level with the changing face of our community by working with individuals, City Council, business groups, service, health and educational institutions.
- b) Actively pursue the prevention of prejudice, intolerance, harassment and discrimination in our community through public discourse, media exposure, community action and education on these issues.
- c) Create programs and initiatives in furtherance of our vision such as the Welcoming Laconia Initiative, the Laconia Multicultural Festival and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration.

Notes from Zoom Meeting on 2.27.23

Regarding: Holocaust Program with TBI and Laconia Human Relations Committee

May 6, 2023, 4 p.m.

Present: David Stamps, Patrick Wood, David Osman, Rev. Judith Wright, Ira Keltz, Carol Pierce, Barbara Katz, Rabbi Jan Katz

Friends, please note:

1. Below reflects a free-flowing and brainstorming conversation.
2. My sincere apologies if I confused the words of the two David's on zoom. Please set the notes straight, when incorrect, and I will edit and resend asap.

David S: There is local precedent for these collaborations. David S. reminded us of his words at the MLK program that it would be good to collaborate on Yom HaShoah and my subsequent follow-up with him. "We must support all in the community who are under attack." He referred to the CNN program last Friday on antisemitism, which is a reality in New Hampshire. The "dogs of hate are at loose."

The antisemites and extremists are using all kinds of weapons including social media; it's a fight, but we cannot use their weapons. Instead, we have to recruit people with love. It's startling how many have never heard of the Holocaust. There are lots of books out – the next generation in their twenties and thirties are trying to retell the story to the rest of the community. Too many respond: "It's not our problem" and that feeds the flame.

Patrick: We need to be cognizant that now is similar to brown shirts (storm troopers who walked the streets and intimidated enemies of the Nazis in WWII Germany), and we need to counteract with how we ought to treat one another.

David O: Little conversations are great starters for a huge topic, and at some point we need to have a focus or objective. Here are some items to consider for this program:

- a. Should we have a dialogue?
- b. There are good resources from the Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Keene College, their outreach people are really willing to

jump in and help. Maybe they can bring resources and human beings. Rabbi Jan will follow up with the Cohen Center.

c. Remember that other groups were victimized during the Holocaust: Roma, LGBT, political dissidents, Blacks in Germany, Jehovah Witnesses, etc. Rabbi: There is a need to reach out to youth, and to invite educators to bring their students

Judith: She has been thinking about black history month and slavery and talking about that at TBI on the evening of May 4 (day before the Holocaust program) when she preaches to the TBI congregation as guest clergy, or maybe the history of UU support and standing up against the Nazis. (Rabbi Jan's note: All on zoom today and in the community are invited to join us that evening at 7:30 p.m. in person or on zoom to hear Rev. Wright's message.) That slaves were labelled by what they wore reminds Rev. Wright of the yellow stars that Jews were required to wear publicly.

Venue: David S. looked into the Colonial Theater and Belknap Mill, and neither are available. The Beane Center and Gilford Church were suggested. Ira suggested that given that the program is in two months that we keep the program small this year, focusing on a few introductions by community speakers, Bonnie's presentation (narrative of a child of survivor, PP presentation, and singing her original music and lyrics as related to her family who were killed in the Holocaust), and food. We all liked the idea of the Congregational Church in downtown Laconia as a good space for this program. Barbara offered that it is a good thing for our Jewish community to move out to a local church to show our support for the rest of the community. Patrick Wood, a member of the church, will follow up with Rev. Campbell Lovett on Wednesday to find out if we can use the church on May 5.

Publicity: Thank you, Barbara for taking the lead in this area! David S. said that Carey Chandler (spelling?) of the Human Relations Committee is their social media expert and would want to collaborate here as well. We would publicize the event in the Laconia Daily Sun, with advertising and press releases, develop an appropriate flyer, paper and digital for the area, as well as take advantage of the Friday afternoon Laconia Newsletter. Barbara offered that she has worked with Nancy Brown, who has done this newsletter for 30 years and will assuredly fit in this program.

David S.: Another appropriate audience for this program are those businesses who are displaying stickers in support of love and Miriam Kovac's Franklin restaurant, The Broken Spoon with both Miriam and the restaurant being victims of verbal attacks on social media. The stickers read: Discrimination is not tolerated in this business.

David S. offered at this point that Laconia should stand for something more than just a city hall on the river. The stickers, and an LGBTQ flag make big statements about our city's values.

Target Population: Carol strongly urged that we ask for 3 people from different organizations to represent those organizations to this event: faith communities, the Mental Health Center, any partnerships with public health groups, and people who represent the community and the healing of the community. The Mental Health Center are working hard on hate. Moreover, the disabled were also victims of the Holocaust. Carol urged that schools be represented publicly and that we orally recognize their presence and standing up. Attendance of faculty and students should be required. Mayor is good friends with the superintendent. Judith is on board at Mental Health Center. Can the Mayor and Judith reach out to these two constituencies?

Additional Logistics:

- a. Saturday from 4 – 6 p.m. works as that time does not interfere with the afternoon or evening plans for some folk.
- b. David S. suggested that we offer resource materials, but not ask for donations. That said, we can take donations for the different organizations if attendees want to make them.
- c. John MacArthur will do the sound setup
- d. David O: We need give a heads up to Matt Canfield about the date and place and tell him that we will firm up as details are confirmed. David S. said that he has known Matt for years and his intention is to protect everyone in the community. Pat also mentioned Eric Adams from the Police Department to reach out to. Who offered to follow up here? We should wait until we have clarity on the program venue...
- e. David S: The next meeting of the Human Relations Committee is on March 13 – this program will be on the agenda. He needs a vote from them to formally participate but doesn't anticipate any issues.

- f. March 21 at 4 p.m. will be our next planning meeting. Rabbi Jan will send a link and reminder.
- g. Barbara: We need a title for the event, and content. David S. reminded the group that the focus needs to be narrow, that is, to support our Jewish friends in the here and now. Pat reiterated the need to fight antisemitism every day, and David S declared: "I don't want this to be a history lesson." Barbara will draft an informational flyer. Barbara said that she invites any and all feedback in content and format, and has no ego here. Rabbi will follow up with Bonnie also regarding title, her bio, and content of program.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rabbi Jan Katz

## **BANNER DISPLAYS AT CITY HALL**

**Purpose:** As the City of Laconia's center of government, City Hall is more than an administrative government building. City Hall is symbol of the City of Laconia itself and of all it represents and stands for. Because of this the display of appropriate banners at City Hall will also be seen by many as representing the values that City embraces. Both longtime residents and first time visitors will find the banners displayed at City Hall will give them an insight as to what kind of community Laconia aspires to be.

**Banners can be of many different types:**

**Affirmational:** Some banners will celebrate and affirm basic human rights such as the Gay Pride Banner.

**Awareness:** Some banners such as Alzheimer's and Cancer Awareness draw attention to the ongoing need to support medical research to find a cure for these terrible diseases.

**Celebratory:** Some banners will recognize the heroes who walk among us such as our Law Enforcement Officers, Fire Service Officers and those in our community serving in the Armed Forces.

**Promotion:** Some banners will promote community wide events such as Multi-Cultural Day and Pumpkin Fest.

Religious and/or politically themed banners are not appropriate and will not be allowed.

**Management and Review:**

The City Council at all times retains approval authority of what is displayed at City Hall.

The Laconia Human Relations Committee will have the responsibility of reviewing all applications to display banners and make a recommendation to the City Council for their approval. The committee will also develop a formal set of rules and guidelines for banner display that will be presented to the City Council for their review and approval.