

From: SimsburyCT Postings November 18, 2009 9:11:49 AM  
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Cc:

Human Relations Commission Meeting  
September 15, 2009

Meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m.

Present were commission members Eva Hausman, Susan Ersinghaus, Mickey Lecours-Beck, Director of Social Services for the Town of Simsbury, and special guests Susan Bullock, Library Director, Simsbury Public Library, and Shelley Spoering, Children's Librarian, Simsbury Public Library.

The Minutes for the Special Meeting on August 24, 2009, were approved.

Mrs. Hausman welcomed Ms. Bullock and Ms. Spoering and invited them to share the work they have been doing, and are planning for both adults and children, which dovetails with the Commission's charge to "foster mutual understanding and respect". Ms. Bullock briefly summarized some of their past programs, but enthusiastically shared the upcoming program centered around the book "They Poured Fire On Us From The Sky", written by 3 of the 'lost boys of Darfur' and features a book discussion on September 29th in Simsbury, followed by an opportunity to meet and hear two of the authors at Avon High School in October 8th. Ms. Spoering then had an opportunity to inform the Commission of some of the ways the children's library exposes kids to a great diversity of cultures by featuring some of the different speaker's such as last year's Cuban Book/Cuban Night work with Farmington and Canton and a program centered around Chinese Music and the experiences of a native of China. She was also quite proud that the summer reading program has switched from offering prize incentives to kids for reading to asking kids to read toward donations to Operation Smile, which helps finance treatment for others.

Ms. Hausman then shared some of the Commission's work and goals and asked if we might be of assistance in the future to co-sponsor or collaborate on future events. Those present agreed this might be possible and beneficial and pledged to explore ideas where this might be appropriate and to communicate more regularly.

Meeting ended 6:17 pm.

