

**Social Justice Council
Annual Report
2017-2018**

Social Justice Council Members: Brenda Black, Kate Philbin, Ginny Perelson, Carol Valentine, David Murphy, Mary Markel, Davalene Cooper, Patti Smith, Belinda Arams

This has been the first year of our **new Social Justice focus on Protecting Vulnerable Communities**. We are happy to report that we were able to support several new areas of social justice interest and action which have been brought to us by members of the congregation, specifically:

- Promoted the opportunity to help with the monthly Lunch and Conversation program for immigrant English learners at the International Institute of New England (IINE), coordinated by a Hingham multi-faith group and raised funds for IINE through a Social Justice Plate Collection
- Coordinated learning about immigrant and asylum seeker rights by bringing Seth Purcell of Political Asylum/Immigration Representation (PAIR) to Old Ship for a forum discussion and Social Justice Plate Collection
- In recognition of UU Social Justice Sunday and this year's focus on Climate Justice, we supported learning about local Climate Justice actions and ways Old Ship can work to become re-certified as a UU Green Sanctuary addressing climate justice issues by providing a Soup Lunch for those attending the Climate Justice discussion with our 350MA.org group
- Created a brochure describing how members of our community can become involved in Social Justice work. (see version formatted for inclusion at the end of this report)

And, we were happy to watch the active interest and commitment to learning about Racial Justice issues in our congregation as the ARG (Anti-Racism Group) was established and to a new action to support those who are hungry, the Fair Foods drive through the UU Urban Ministry.

The Social Justice Council (SJC) has continued to lead Old Ship's efforts to

- Hold monthly "Feeding Others" food and cash collections to support the Hingham Food Pantry
- Provide meals for Father Bill's Homeless Shelter for Adults through the six teams that cook and serve dinner meals on a quarterly basis
- Hold our annual Food Drive at Stop and Shop to stock the shelves at the 1225 lbs. of food were collected during the annual Stop and Shop food drive.
- November 20 was the kickoff for Guests at Your Table, an annual fund raiser for UUSC, a drive that ultimately raised \$4562 for the UUSC, our largest contribution to date.
- Provide holiday gifts for children in foster care in our area

- Support the 350MA.org node's actions to respond to climate change and the impact on vulnerable populations through information in the monthly newsletter and alerts about potential actions through the Social Justice Alert email distribution
- Monthly special plate collections during the Sunday service provided funds (more than \$5,000 in total) to numerous organizations whose work helps those in vulnerable communities including International Institute of New England, Friends of the Homeless of the South Shore, The Outreach Program to End Hunger, Boston Health Care for the Homeless, replacing flood damaged freezers at Wellspring's Food Pantry, Political Asylum/Immigration Representation, and 350 Mass Action (working to eliminate fossil fuel use in MA).

For 2018-2019

We envision continuing many of our recent social service actions which have received support from the congregation and we will offer guidance and support to any in the congregation who would like to lead an action or learning opportunity to help a vulnerable community. We will help with communicating opportunities to act in service to such vulnerable groups through the newsletter, announcements and the Social Justice Action Alerts email distribution. Contact Davalene Cooper davalenecooper@verizon.net to be added to the alert email distribution.

We plan to:

- Change the ongoing collection of foods for the Hingham Food Pantry due to the very low response to the monthly collections at Fellowship Hour this year. Information about ways our congregation can support the Hingham Food Pantry over the summer and next fall will be announced in the near future.
- Organize and administer eight monthly Social Justice Special Plate collections, expanding potential recipients to organizations serving a range of vulnerable populations.
- Support our 350MA.org node and Green Sanctuary Group in their efforts to educate our congregation about ways to reduce the human impact on climate change and to act for climate justice for communities currently experiencing the impact of climate change.
- Coordinate the Father Bill's cooking teams in providing 24 dinner meals for residents of Father Bill's homeless shelter.
- Lead the Annual Spring Food Drive to restock the Hingham Food Pantry at Stop and Shop
- Program a recognition of UU Justice Sunday

We hope the Children's RE program will continue to provide bag lunches for Father Bill's residents on a monthly basis and that the Youth Group and Coming of Age groups will continue to identify actions they can take to serve others.

Supporting Vulnerable Populations

Social Justice Work at Old Ship

Acting for Social and Ecological Justice at Old Ship, First Parish UU Hingham

Here at Old Ship we strive to bring the values of mind and heart into the work of our hands. Our shared social values are expressed in Old Ship's third purpose, which affirms our intention to "act for ecological and social justice;" and by UU "Principles" which call us to work for "justice, equity, and compassion in human relations," and toward "the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all."

Our efforts are supported by the Social Justice Council whose mission is to support the Old Ship committees that sustain social justice programs on a local, national and global basis. The Council works closely with the Board of Trustees, staff, committees and individuals to coordinate projects and activities and to help ensure that such efforts are broadly communicated and supported by the Old Ship community.

Coffeehouse Off the Square

The Coffeehouse offers topflight folk music and provides budding singer-song writers and poets a chance to be heard one Saturday night per month from September to May. The Coffeehouse contributes its net proceeds to support the UUSC and shared investments for churchwide use.

opportunities: help is needed with program development, set-up and refreshment sales.

contact: Jim Watson 781 749-1767 or
Eric Cornetta eecornetta@aol.com

Father Bill's Place

Six interfaith teams support this shelter for homeless adults in Quincy by preparing and serving meals on a quarterly basis.

opportunities: volunteer to be part of a team or to create a new team to prepare and serve a meal; help to coordinate; volunteer as a substitute cook or server.

contact: Brenda Black blackpolara@verizon.net
David Petrie cdpetrie@aol.com or
Fan Leonard 781 749-2852

Green Sanctuary Team

Old Ship is in the process of being re-certified as a Green Sanctuary. We host the South Shore Node of 350MASS.org

opportunities: join the team to encourage Old Shippers (and Old Ship) and others to live in more ecologically sustainable ways.

contact: Laura Burns for Green Sanctuary laura.burns@verizon.net
Connie Gorfinkle
connieg1233@verizon.com or
Turner Bledsoe turnerbledsoe1@verizon.net
for 350MA.org

Hingham Interfaith Food Pantry

Based at Second Parish in Hingham, the pantry serves Hingham families in need. Old Ship supports the Pantry through donations of food and cash.

opportunities: donate foods or cash at our monthly Feeding Others fellowship hours; help transport donations to the pantry; help with annual Food Drive for the Pantry at Stop and Shop.

contact: Kate Philbin
kate.philbin4@gmail.com or
Belinda Arams beliaram@comcast.net

Social Justice Council

As stated, our mission is to support the Old Ship committees that sustain social justice programs on a local, national and global basis.

We also organize Old Ship's Monthly Social Justice Plate collections and monthly Feeding Others food collections and provide social action alerts to interested members of the congregation.

opportunities: JOIN US!

contact: Brenda Black
blackpolara@verizon.net or
Kate Philbin kate.philbin4@gmail.com

Social Outreach Committee

This committee, appointed by the Board of Trustees, considers requests for grants to outside organizations from our Social Outreach Endowment Fund and makes grant recommendations to the Parish for vote at our annual meeting each May.

Friends of the Homeless of the South Shore Old Ship hosts the December holiday party for the Friends of the Homeless.

opportunities: cook and serve the meal to families living in local shelters, donate furniture to their furniture bank.

contact: Judi Flaherty yuumom@gmail.com

For more information about FHSS: www.friendsofhomeless.org 781 331-9390

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)

Old Ship contributes in a variety of ways to the UUSC's global and domestic programs in support of human rights, peace and social justice. A portion of our Christmas Eve offering is designated for the UUSC; we promote the annual Guest at Your Table program to generate financial support for UUSC; and we host Old Ship's "Coffeehouse Off the Square" whose proceeds benefit the UUSC.

opportunities: volunteer at the Coffeehouse; become a member of the UUSC

contact: Davalene Cooper davalenecooper@verizon.net

Further information about the UUSC: www.uusc.org

Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry (UUUM)

Provides educational support for youth in Roxbury, and women and their children who are victims of domestic abuse and offers ESL classes. We support UUUM through a fall fund drive for their Renewal House program and through a portion of our Christmas Eve offering.

opportunities: volunteer to tutor in UUUM's Roxbury programs; organize a Saturday Explorers' Club event; cook a Wednesday supper for students.

Further information about the UUUM:

First Parish in Hingham

(Old Ship Church)

Unitarian Universalist

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Minister:

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