

Social Justice Council (SJC) News for December 2019

Friends of the Homeless of the South Shore Holiday Party/Dinner, Thurs. Dec 12th

If you would like to help with the fun and very special holiday celebration for the parents and children living in our local family shelters, the **Holiday Dinner/Party will take place on Thurs. Dec 12th from 6-8pm in our Fellowship Hall**. Old Shippers are needed to prepare some of the foods at home, help with last minute cooking at Old Ship, serve the holiday meal and clean up after the party. Contact Jill McElroy to sign up to help jillmcelroy@mac.com or 401 741-5558

Guest at Your Table Ends on Sunday, December 15! Bring your donations to our special plate collection that day!

-A 79-year-old human rights organization rooted in Unitarian Universalist values, UUSC advances human rights in the United States and around the globe through research, advocacy, and partnerships with small grassroots organizations. Guest at Your Table is the major fundraising program for congregations supporting our values through the many projects of UUSC.

-The theme for this year's program is "Women Leaders, Strong Communities." We will learn more about women leaders from UUSC partner organizations who are taking on some of today's greatest human rights challenges. Here are some examples of how your donations are used:

- \$25 helps women in Kiribati access clean water for their households by supporting the installation of new water tanks.
- \$50 supports a research project led by Muslim women about the surveillance of Muslim communities in the United States.
- \$75 advances drought recovery in Tanzania by providing livelihood support for one single mother, elderly woman, or woman living with disabilities.
- \$100 bolsters women's farming cooperatives in Nicaragua through supporting improved administrative systems and strategic planning.
- \$150 helps girls and women from Burma (Myanmar) attend leadership and peace-building trainings focused on bridging ethnic and religious divides within the country.
- \$300 supports legal assistance for vulnerable migrant populations applying for asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border, including mothers with young children and pregnant women.
- \$500 helps fund psychological support and improved security measures for Honduran women human rights defenders, who are facing threats, harassment, and surveillance.

-We will be collecting your donations at our special plate offering on December 15. It is helpful if you convert the donations in your GAYT box to a check or cash. If you are not in attendance that Sunday, you may drop off your donation to the church office, or make your donation at www.uusc.org (be sure to indicate your connection of Old Ship if you donate online!).

-Individual contributions of \$125 or more are eligible to be matched dollar-for-dollar by the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, NY. For this match, as well as for membership, please make your donation by check, or fill out the envelope distributed at the November 24 service.

-Questions? Contact Davalene Cooper, Old Ship's UUSC Congregational Liaison, at davalenecooper@verizon.net or 781-749-0790.

Serving Others by Supporting the Hingham Food Pantry

The SJC invites you to continue to Serve Others by **bringing a non-perishable food item for the Hingham Food Pantry whenever you come to Old Ship**. There is a collection basket in the vestibule of the Meeting House each Sunday to receive your donation. The collection box in the outer vestibule of the Parish House is also available to accept donations when you come for classes or meetings or anytime.

A heartfelt THANK YOU for the stepped up support for the Hingham Food Pantry

Old Ship delivered 210 lbs of non-perishable foods to the Pantry on 10/28, our largest donation to date from our congregation.

For December, the Pantry has asked especially for donations of the following needed foods (and they are happy to receive donations of other foods too)

Grape or strawberry jelly

Hearty canned soups

Dinty Moore Beef Stew

Pasta sauce

Rice

Granola Bars

Individually bagged or packaged snacks

Green Sanctuary

-Following up on last month's commentary regarding the dramatic McKibbin article on Banking support for the Fossil Fuel industry - I dug more deeply into the source reporting from the Rainforest Action Alliance and discovered MY BANKS WERE GETTING "D minus" RATINGS! I have now left Bank of America where I had both line of credit and all my banking. Last year my mortgage was with JP Morgan Chase!! Wow, It is also "D minus" rated. Now I also have to get rid of my Amazon Card (JP Morgan Chase). Two popular alternatives for credit card banks are Capitol One and Discovery. Now living in Linden Ponds - my banking is conveniently in house (and fossil free) with Hingham Institute for Savings.

-This was not the end of my enlightenment: I turned to look more deeply into my "Fossil Fuel Divested" retirement account. I discovered these D minus banks were in my portfolio - plus several more. I have since been exchanging important literature references on the "Climate Crisis" with my financial advisor because these banks are clearly supporting Petroleum Industry drilling in reserves that will push global warming to unsafe levels. This week will be my day of reckoning with this advisor!

-On an upside note; Hingham's Energy Action Committee is now embarked on the pathway to "Net Zero Emissions" for the entire town. Towns across Massachusetts and the South Shore are also actively working on this pathway as well.

-Last but not least the legislature has a number of exciting bills coming up for hearings with great potential to fund what we are hoping to do. For these efforts we give much thanks! Bless you all!
Turner Bledsoe

-If you would like to join other UU's in advocating for these bills, you are invited to join **UU Climate Action Advocacy Day, Tuesday December 17, 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM**

We'll meet at the State House in a **conference room 413E**, briefly go over the bills and the plan and then send a team of volunteers to each floor on the State House. All the materials you'll need will be provided – we just need you! This is part of a coalition wide effort to have weekly groups visit every legislator's office to keep up the pressure about our bills!

-**The Plan:** there will be 8 teams (minimum, 2 people per team). Each team will be assigned a floor in the State House. The teams will drop off packets of information and have short conversations about why they are there. All materials will be provided to you. Just wear your yellow, Side with Love, shirt and show up ([get one here](#))!

[You can learn more about the legislation here](#)

Important – Please **RSVP [Here](#)!**



UU Urban Ministry (UUUM)

The mission of the UU Urban Ministry (UUUM) is to unite communities and transform individuals through education, service, and advocacy. We engage communities and congregations in social action and change, with programs that empower youth and adults to realize their full potential. Over nearly 200 years, our programs have adapted to meet the needs of our community. Updates on programming and ongoing events are at uum.org

- **December 8:** 2pm Join the UUUM for a visit to Black Market for a holiday shopping extravaganza. Founded by Kai & Christopher Grant, Black Market's mission is to help eradicate Boston's wealth gap. Join us to meet the founders and peruse the stunning variety of clothes, jewelry, art, and artisanal holiday gifts from local vendors. **Get your holiday shopping done in style!** Kindly RSVP to Bithyah at bisrael@uum.org
- **December 22:** 3 pm at the UUUM: John Muratore's Noel: An afternoon of classical guitar in the UUUM Meetinghouse to celebrate the season.

Interested in advocating for vulnerable communities?

Sign up for the Old Ship Social Justice Action Alert Network to find out about specific advocacy opportunities such as letter writing, advocacy calls, participating in educational/advocacy events with local legislators. Send your email address to Davalene Cooper, Keeper of the List, at davalenecooper@verizon.net

Old Ship Coffeehouse Off the Square: Southern Rail

Note the Special Time: Sunday, December 15, 2019 at 4 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
Admission is \$15.00 per person.

This month's coffeehouse features the return of Southern Rail. This Appalachia-rooted, New England-based bluegrass and gospel band has played at the Coffeehouse for many attentive, engaged audiences at Christmastime. Come for an afternoon of high-energy, exuberant fun, riveting harmonies, a touch of humor, and sparkling banjo and mandolin solos. Their gospel base with a bluegrass flavor brings the season to life. Profits from the Coffeehouse are donated to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), so this is another way to support UUSC and their justice work around the world!

Interested in Social Justice work at Old Ship?

You are welcome at any Social Justice Council meeting to talk with us about your ideas of how Old Ship can Serve Others. Look for announcements of the next SJC meeting date in the Order of Service in January. Contact Brenda Black blackpollara@verizon.net or Davalene Cooper davalenecooper@verizon.net