

Serving Others

News from the Social Justice Council (SJC)



Mark your calendars for our May Anti-Racism Book

Group meeting which will focus on "A Conspiracy of Mothers" by Colleen Van Niekerk (2021). The novel explores South Africa's racial classifications during apartheid, the government's construct of whiteness, and how those classifications affected laws and practices related to sexual assault. Patti Smith has made arrangements for the author to join us for our discussion. ***To accommodate Colleen's schedule, we will meet at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, May 11 on Zoom.*** We are very excited to have the author with us on Zoom for our discussion of the novel.

For more information or if you have questions about the group, contact [Davalene Cooper](mailto:Davalene.Cooper@uu.edu). This group is open to all who are interested in learning more about racism and its impact on our nation, past and present. It is a drop-in group so members may attend whatever book discussions they are most interested in. Here is the Zoom link for the May meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/96346647557?pwd=VUs0Q3VpWW4vdXJuYlV5OFYzN1dBdz09>

Warrant Article for the 2022 Old Ship Annual Meeting – Will the Congregation approve the recommendation of the Social Justice Council to become a Member Congregation of Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light?

Recently, as part of our social justice commitment to climate justice, we reconnected with Mass Interfaith Power and Light. This organization is headed by the Rev. Cindy Davidson, a UU minister who has been connected to UU environmental issues for a long time. In addition, the policy director for the organization is another UU minister who many of us know, the Rev. Fred Small. One of the ways to support this important organization is to become a Member Congregation. In looking at the list of congregations who have taken this step, we found that many of them are UU congregations.

You may learn more about the organization at [Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light \(massipl.org\)](http://MassachusettsInterfaithPower&Light.org). The list of Member Congregations can be found at [Our Member Congregations – Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light \(massipl.org\)](http://OurMemberCongregations-MassachusettsInterfaithPower&Light.org). The SJC thinks this would be a good way for us to be more involved with climate justice issues, and more supportive of the broader work in this area. There is a donation fee, which the SJC would pay from our budget this year. We urge the congregation to support this Article at our annual meeting.

May's Special Plate Collection is for the "Outright LGBTQ Ukraine Emergency Fund" – OutRight Action International is a leading international organization dedicated to human rights advocacy on behalf of people who experience discrimination or abuse on the basis of their actual or perceived sexual

orientation, gender identity or expression. Their motto is "Human Rights for LGBTIQ People Everywhere." Due to the war and reports of discrimination against LGBTQ people, they have created a special fund for LGBTIQ people still in Ukraine, and for refugees fleeing the war. The funds we raise at Old Ship will go to this special fund. To learn more about this fund and OutRight Action, visit their website at [OutRight LGBTIQ Ukraine Emergency Fund | OutRight Action International \(outrightinternational.org\)](https://outrightinternational.org).

Remember, you may make your donation online through the Old Ship website by designating your donation to Outreach or by sending your check to the church office, payable to Old Ship, with Outright LBBTIQ Ukraine designated on the memo line. Thank you in advance for your donations!

Thanks to all who contributed to our March special plate for the Old Ship Youth Group Service Trip. We raised \$2,279.56. for this important part of our youth ministry. Thanks to everyone for their generosity.

UUA and UUSC Respond to Russia's Attack on Ukraine – For information about how UUSC is responding to the refugee crisis created by this unprovoked attack, go to [We Demand An End to the Bloodshed”: UUSC Responds to Vladimir Putin’s Invasion of Ukraine - Unitarian Universalist Service Committee](#). There is also a list of organization at this link that are directly responding to the crisis in Ukraine. For a statement from the UUA regarding this crisis and how UUs can best help, go to [Supporting Those Impacted by the Crisis in Ukraine | Press Releases | UUA.org](#) and [Support for Ukrainian Refugees | International Unitarian Universalism | UUA.org](#). UUSC’s initial emergency response includes providing immediate funding to the Hungarian Helsinki Committee (HHC) and the FemFund, two groups already on the ground working on equitable recovery for displaced people. The first steps include: 1) Distributing humanitarian aid to women, people of color, and LGBTQI+ individuals who have fled Ukraine – including delivery of food, cooking supplies, batteries, generators, lamps, and other necessities for those arriving in Poland, 2) Providing free legal assistance, counseling, and plain-language information to those arriving in Hungary, enabling them to access their rights as asylum seekers, and 3) Organizing support for grassroots groups who are fighting pushbacks of BIPOC migrants.

Hingham Food Pantry – We are collecting food donations for the Hingham Food Pantry. There is a basket in the vestibule of the Meeting House for donations. Donations may also be left in the Parish House office anytime the office is open (9-1 weekdays). **Donations may also be made at the Hingham Stop and Shop (large bin at the front of the store)**. The food pantry only accepts non-perishable, unopened, and unexpired food. Although all donations are appreciated, the following items are among the most needed at any time: beef stew, hearty soups, small bags of granulated sugar, cookies, crackers, and 64 oz. bottles of juices. Checks to support the food pantry can be sent to Hingham Food Pantry,

685 Main St., Hingham, MA 02043. Thanks to Kate Philbin for delivering our donations to the Food Pantry.

Father Bill's Cooking Teams – The six cooking teams staffed by Old Shippers and others from the area have continued to provide full dinner meals for those served at Father Bill's Shelter in Quincy. Each group makes dinner for the shelter four times during the year. Father Bill's has expressed deep appreciation for the consistency and commitment from the six teams during these challenging times. Thanks to Brenda Black for coordinating these teams. We also want to thank those who participate in this project, providing meals for the shelter four times per year. Here is the list of our six cooking teams. Thanks to all of you for being a part of this important work!

1. Charlotte Champagne (Team Leader), Mary Petrino, Bob Casey, Kathy Lynch, and Kevin Mulvey & Bruce Mauer
2. Sharon Prehn (Team Leader), Nina Wellford, Erica Goode, Carolyn Locke, Judy Sneath, and Mary Markel & David Murphy
3. Peggy Weymouth (Team Leader), Nancy Hill, Ronnie Scott, Julie Kembel, Avis Goldstein, Stephanie Connolly, and Kathi Lesko
4. Dave Petrie (Team Leader), Frank Cheney, Mid Walsh, Brenda Black & Ron Pollara, Paul Stone, Stewart Lewack, and Libby Benson
5. Janice McPhillips (Team Leader), Janet Blampied, Susan Read-Brown, Roseanne Bush, Diane Clarke, Caryn Schneider, and Gail Moran Slater
6. Pia Young and Lisa Sawyer (Team Leaders), Allan Greenberg, Barbara Ganem, Fan Leonard, and Davalene Cooper

UU the Vote 2022 has Launched – UU the Vote is organizing on the state and local levels to fight for fair elections, advance voting rights, protect abortion access, and resist the targeting and criminalization of Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities. For more information and/or to sign up to receive emails from the project, go to [UU the Vote - Faith, Love, and Action. Together.](#)

UUA's Side with Love Campaign – This is an advocacy campaign seeking to harness the power of love to work for justice and stop oppression in its many forms. You can learn more about the campaign and sign up to receive updates on how to participate at [Side With Love.](#)

Old Ship Social Justice Action Alert Network – Sign up for the Old Ship Social Justice Action Alert Network to find out about specific advocacy opportunities such as letter writing, advocacy calls, and participating in educational and advocacy events with local legislators. Send your email address to [Davalene Cooper](#), Keeper of the List.