

Social Justice Council (SJC) News for October 2019

October Special Plate Collection—Sunday, October 6

This month's special plate will support "No More Deaths," a humanitarian organization in southern Arizona that was founded to reduce or stop the deaths of migrants in the desert. Crossing the desert is especially dangerous and since 2004, volunteers have left food, water, and blankets for those making the journey. They also work to provide emergency medical care, if needed, and document evidence of deaths in the desert. The group also maintains a 24-hour hotline where family members can report missing persons. Volunteers are in the desert every day doing this work, and in recent years, some volunteers have been charged with federal crimes for harboring, abandoning property on federal land (i.e., the food, water, and blankets) or trespassing or driving on administrative roads on federal (to leave water and other items where migrants cross). Since 2008, No More Deaths is an official ministry of the UU Church in Tucson.

Opportunity to Help Others and Do Some Holiday Shopping-- Sun. Oct. 20, 11:30am-12:30pm

During Coffee Hour on Sunday, October 20, the Social Justice Council will host a fair of area groups selling handcrafted items from Central America. Proceeds will benefit projects and persons in Central American countries. One such group is *Under the Same Moon*, which raises funds for Asociación Bendición de Dios - a nondenominational, nonprofit school and community development organization in San Juan Alotenango, Guatemala. The school educates about 500 children, most of whom otherwise would not be able to afford the \$250 in annual costs for the "public" school. Under the Same Moon sells handcrafted items made by Guatemalan indigenous artisans and locally sourced, fair trade Guatemalan coffee, Dean's Beans. Under the Same Moon works directly with the artisans or artisans' cooperatives to follow fair trade principles and practices. The purchases provide opportunities for greatly improved earnings for the artisans, leading to a more stable economic well-being. We expect to have one or two other groups here that day, including one group that sells baskets made by women in Honduras. This will be a great opportunity to help those in Central America!

Serving Others through bringing a non-perishable food item for 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.

The Pantry has asked for the following items especially needed to restock their shelves after the summer lull in donations:

- Canned vegetables (all sorts: canned green beans, corn, peas, and others)
- Canned fruit (all sorts: fruit cocktail, canned peaches, pears, pineapple)
- Hearty canned soups: Progresso, Campbells Chunky and similar brands
- Canned pastas (Chef Boyardee),
- Canned stews and chilis
- Pasta sauce

Anti-racism learning opportunity

Do you want to continue (or initiate!!) your anti-racism work? We are invited by our neighbors up the street at St John's Episcopal Church, (172 Main street Hingham) to a **film-based dialogue of race and faith**. Spanning ten sessions starting in early October, we are invited to take "a journey over the sacred ground of racial introspection and reconciliation. In this series offered by St. John's Adult Education, developed by the Episcopal Church, we will walk through the chapters of America's history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, socio-economic status, and political and regional identity." Sessions are offered on Wednesdays 7-8:30 pm starting October 9 (OR Sundays starting October 6, 11:30-1 pm) [REGISTRATION](#) REQUIRED and they ask we commit to attend all sessions. [For more info visit sacred-ground](#)

Identity / Diversity Learning Opportunity

The Scituate Unity Council will be hosting a **community book discussion of There There** by Tommy Orange...

Read: There There, by Tommy Orange
Meet: Scituate Library Community Room
Date: Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2019
Time: 6:30pm-8:30pm

The Scituate Unity Council is a node of the South Shore Unity Council whose mission is "Neighbors who seek to understand the complexity of identity and affirm our common humanity through open communication and productive dialogue. Through community events and other learning opportunities, we seek to cultivate an understanding of the shared human experience, while celebrating our uniqueness."

Book overview: There There is the first novel by Cheyenne and Arapaho author Tommy Orange. Published in 2018, it opens with an essay by Orange as a prologue, and then proceeds to follow a large cast of Native Americans living in the area of Oakland, California, as they struggle with a wide array of challenges ranging from depression and alcoholism, to unemployment, fetal alcohol syndrome, and the challenges of living with an ethnic identity of being "ambiguously nonwhite." All coalesce at a community pow wow and its attempted robbery.

Green Sanctuary Notes for October 2019 from Turner Bledsoe

This Summer and Fall have been a kaleidoscope of events around the climate crisis. Following the record shattering heat spells in July and August, Hurricane Dorian burst on the scene. This was the largest, most powerful, most destructive hurricane ever recorded in the Atlantic Ocean. Lingering wind speeds of 220 mph wreaked havoc on the Bahamas. As I write, Houston again. is recovering from the extensive flooding of another tropical storm "Ismelda". All this has been a more than fitting prelude to what I believe is the best evidence to date that we are approaching "The Turning Point" (to the rescue). Friday, September 20th, 2019; (now two days past) marks the largest protest event the world has ever seen: **The worldwide youth driven "Global Climate Strike"** honoring 16 yr old Greta Thunberg of Sweden who has brought this movement to America on the eve of the United Nations Climate Action Summit. **Four million** youth and supporting adults rallied in major cities of **163 countries** on multiple continents around the world. In Boston at the City Hall, thousands gathered for songs, chants speeches

– and a march to the Statehouse for more. Old Shippers were well represented among UUs from all over the state. This youth awakening has driven the climate crisis into the spotlight of national politics in America. At long last all contenders for the Democratic Presidential candidacy recognize the climate crisis and most have plans to advance a “Green New Deal” to find a solution. Because the Trump administration, the Republican controlled Senate and Statehouses continue to expand gas infrastructure, dismantle existing protections of the environment, and resist both renewable energy development and use (in electric vehicles) - the upcoming Presidential, Congressional and Statehouse elections of 2020 will undoubtedly determine our ultimate future. However, the challenge of halting global heating cannot wait for a political transformation that may be ahead, nor can it be won by politicians alone. Each of us must start now to electrify our heating; cooking; and transportation; and reduce our intake of red meat. We need to lobby the dairy industry to implement fermentation reducing feed and limit our intake of dairy products that don’t meet that standard. Using Seventh Generation recycled paper products (toilet paper and paper towels) are the best way to protect against the destruction of the Northern Boreal forest. Finally, if you continue to own petroleum industry stock, you will be funding “the breaking of the carbon budget” that takes the world beyond 2 degrees C. Our future is in our own hands!

UU Urban Ministry (UUUM)

Events and volunteer opportunities with our Roxbury-based partner, UU Urban Ministry (UUUM)

-Youth-led walking tour of Roxbury 10/12 (1 and 2:15 pm) and 10/26 (1 pm) [rypfall-tours.....](#)"Are you curious about the history of Boston? Interested to know more about the First Church in Roxbury's role in the Revolutionary War? Do you wonder what architectural styles can be found in John Eliot Square?" Support the UUUM by attending the tour!! Make a day of it!! Grab lunch at the Dudley cafe, take the tour, and go browse at Frugal books!! Either sign up through the link, or look for a carpool partner through Pam at pamharty@comcast.net

-Seeking SAT and ACT test prep volunteers for Roxbury Youth Program students. Tutoring a small group of students bi-weekly in the Fall, volunteers work under the close supervision of Roxbury Youth Program staff. [CLICK HERE](#) to read more or email Christine Dickerson at cdickerson@uum.org

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

Coffeehouse off the Square - Toni Lynn Washington & Paul Speidel Saturday October 19, 7:30 pm, Old Ship Parish House

Classic blues singer, Tony Lynn Washington, has performed throughout the United States and Europe during a long, successful career, carrying on the tradition of Bessie Smith, Nellie Lutcher, and other blues greats. According to the Boston Globe she “has a lovely, deep, smooth voice that exudes strength and self-assurance.” Toni will be accompanied by longtime blues guitarist Paul Speidel. Toni and Paul were a hit with our audience in an earlier performance.

Profits **benefit the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee**. This is another way we support UUSC!
And we get to hear great, live music!

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. Our next meeting will be Saturday 11/23 at 9 am in the Parlor of the Parish House. Contact Brenda Black blackpollara@verizon.net or Davalene Cooper davalenecooper@verizon.net