

Serving Others

News from the Social Justice Council

The next SJC Meeting will be on Saturday, September 18 at 9 a.m. on Zoom. All are welcome to join us in supporting social justice service and action at Old Ship. Please contact [Davalene Cooper](#) for the Zoom meeting link if you are not already a member of the SJC.



Update on SOLA (School of Leadership Afghanistan) — Our congregation has supported SOLA in its goal of educating women and girls in Afghanistan. We have been concerned about the safety and the future of the school given the situation in Afghanistan. We are able to report that Shabana Basij-Rasikh, the school's founder, who has spoken at Old Ship, is safe. She reports that SOLA's faculty, students, staff, and family members have left Afghanistan and are in Rwanda where the school will operate for at least this semester. They hope to be able to return to Afghanistan as soon as it is safe to do so. Shabana is posting updates on the SOLA website at www.sola-afghanistan.org. Donations to support the school also may be made at this site.

UUSC Disaster Relief for Haiti — As you know, Haiti experienced a devastating 7.2 earthquake on August 14. UUSC is contacting long term partners to assess and respond to the most pressing needs. As is always the case with the UUSC's disaster relief, the goal is to build an equitable and sustainable recovery while also dealing with the immediate devastation. Donations to this relief effort can be made at www.uusc.org.

Special Author Event on September 26 — First Parish of Norwell is hosting Professor Caroline Kautsire, author of *What Kind of Girl: An African Child Caught Between Two Worlds*, to speak at First Parish of Norwell on Sunday, September 26th starting at 4:00 PM. This will be an indoor event with a Zoom option. Her book is described as a "coming of age story about a girl in Malawi who must tangle with the gender restrictions, religious institutions, American cultural attitudes, and African traditions that seek to define who she can be as a woman." Old Ship, along with our sister congregations in Cohasset, Norwell, Scituate, and Second Parish in Hingham are co-sponsoring this event.

Father Bill's/Mainspring — We have received the following information regarding the needs of Father Bill's/Mainspring at this time. Anyone interested in providing Bag Lunches or Snack Items or Additional Dinners (beyond our 6 teams who are currently each providing four meals a year) to one of the locations below,

should contact [Mary Ann Mendes](#), Volunteer Coordinator, at 508.427.6448 x 2283 or mmendes@helpfbms.org.

- **Meal Needs:** MainSpring House or the Satellite Shelter at the Rodeway Inn, both in Brockton and Father Bill's in Quincy: Breakfast and Snack Items (any amount welcome), Lunch or Dinner– 60 servings for each meal, except lunch in Quincy is only 30 meals. Meals may be provided prepared and ready to heat and serve; kitchen staff can also prepare meals with food provided in advance by the donor. Sandwich platters or other meals such as pizza or deliveries from restaurants are welcome.
- **Bag Lunches are needed for the following sites:** MainSpring House, 54 North Main St., Brockton – maximum 75 lunches, Rodeway Inn – maximum 52 lunches, Evelyn House Family Shelter, Stoughton – 20 lunches, FBMS Congregate Family Site, Brockton – 25 lunches, Father Bill's Place, Quincy– maximum 35 lunches, and Northern Region Satellite Shelter, Morrissey Boulevard, Dorchester – maximum 40 lunches.

Hingham Food Pantry — The food pantry continues to collect non-perishable food items at its location at Second Parish in Hingham on the following dates: Mondays, September 13 and 27, from 2:30-4 p.m. and Wednesdays, September 1, 15, and 29, from 12:30-2 p.m. Food donations can also be dropped off at Stop and Shop in Hingham. Although all donations are appreciated, the food pantry reports that the following items are most needed at this time: Granola or Cereal Bars, Cookies, Rice Side Dishes, Small Jars of Mayonnaise, Corn Flakes, and 64 oz Cranberry or Apple Juice. Checks to support the food pantry can be sent to Hingham Food Pantry, 685 Main St., Hingham, MA 02043.

Anti-Racism "Drop-In" Book Group — We will next meet on Sunday, September 19, on Zoom, at 7 p.m. to discuss *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett. Kate Philbin will facilitate this session. This year, we will meet on Zoom on the third Sunday of each month, except for December when we will not meet. For our October and November sessions, we will be discussing *Four Hundred Souls: A Community History of African America, 1619-2019*, edited by Ibram X. Kendi and Keisha N. Blain. For more information or to receive the Zoom link for the September meeting, contact [Davalene Cooper](#).

New UUA 2021 Statement of Conscience on Undoing White Supremacy: A Call to Prophetic Action — At this year's General Assembly, delegates voted on a new statement of conscience (SOC) on undoing white supremacy. This SOC calls on us to 1) engage with the movement in our communities and nation to heal the evil of racism; 2) carry forward the recommended healing actions conveyed in Widening the Circle of Concern (a report from the UUA Commission on Institutional Change); 3) build relationships across boundaries of privilege and oppression; and 4) fulfill our role as a spiritual

anchor to Black, Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) UUs. As you may recall, our congregation voted at our annual meeting in May to make antiracism and undoing white supremacy a major focus of our social justice work. The SJC will be exploring how best to address these issues during this church year, with attention to both the Widening the Circle of Concern report and the 8th Principle Project (as well as other aspects of the Article 2 Commission's work).

Actions of Immediate Witness from the 2021 UUA General

Assembly — Each year at GA, the delegates consider actions of immediate witness (AIW) and may approve up to three such actions. This summer, the delegates approved three such AIWs. They are 1) Defend and Advocate with Transgender, Nonbinary, and Intersex Communities; 2) Stop Voter Suppression and Partner for Voting Right and a Multiracial Democracy; and 3) The COVID-19 Pandemic: Justice, Healing, Courage. More information about each of these AIWs and the SOC discussed about can be found at [Social Justice Statements | UUA.org](https://www.uua.org/social-justice-statements).

Climate Change — The other focus of our social justice work as approved by the congregation in May was climate change. As part of this work, the SJC encourages members of our congregation to join the efforts of climate change groups in their respective towns and communities to work on this issue. In Hingham, Hingham NetZero is the major group working on climate change. Information about their work can be found at www.hinghamnetzero.org.

Special Plate Collections — Our special plate collections will begin again in October when we will be supporting Free, a new ongoing ministry offered by St. John's the Evangelist in Hingham. This program provides menstrual hygiene products to anyone in need on the South Shore; these products are not covered by benefits and negatively impact those who are already financially insecure. Remember, many of our designated groups for special plate collections come from suggestions from members of the congregation. If you have a group you would like to recommend, let us know. Please note that we do require that groups be designated as charitable groups under the federal tax code.

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/advocacy events with local legislators. Send your email address to [Davalene Cooper](mailto:Davalene.Cooper@uua.org), Keeper of the List.