

News from the Social Justice

Council (SJC)

Our Next Meeting is Saturday, January 4, at 9 a.m. on Zoom.
All are welcome! Here is the link to the meeting:



<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85059408242?pwd=tnOmlqQRSQSYS7QuG0XC0dOWedJ8Z6.1>

December Special Plate/Outreach Collection: Unitarian Universalist Service Committee Guest at Your Table Program — Guest at Your Table (GAYT) is UUSC’s annual intergenerational program to raise support for and awareness about key human rights issues. Since it began in 1975, GAYT has introduced generations of Unitarian Universalists to our grassroots partners working for justice around the world with your support. This year’s theme is “Expanding the Welcome Table.” Our guests represent some of the most important work being undertaken by UUSC at this critical time in our national history. You will meet young climate activists in the Marshall Islands helping their communities heal from the destructive legacy of nuclear testing by the United States while envisioning a sustainable future for their people; LGBTQ+ leaders in Ukraine offering resources and companionship to the queer community impacted by Russia’s full-scale invasion; Haitian academics researching racism’s impacts on the experiences of migrants of color in the United States; and Trans organizers forming networks of safety and welcome for trans and gender expansive people forced to flee unsafe communities and states.

Throughout December, we will learn more about this year’s guests, but you also can learn more about them through the Stories of Hope book, available online at [UUSC-24-25GAYTStories-of-Hope-Booklet_Final.pdf](#). We also will distribute hard copies of this book in the Meeting House.

Donations can be made in a variety of ways this month. You may make your donation as part of the special plate collection in the Meeting House, date to be determined. You may make your donation online through the Old Ship website. Click the donate button and then designate your donation for the Outreach Offering: UUSC Guest at Your Table. Finally, you may make your donation directly to UUSC at the following site: [Donate to Classy - Guest at Your Table](#). If you make your donation directly to UUSC, please make sure to indicate you are part of the First Parish in Hingham, Old Ship Church congregation. That way your donation will be included as part of our monthly outreach offering. Thanks in advance for your support of this important work that puts our values out into the world.

Hingham Food Pantry — We have been asked to help the food pantry provide three specific items for their holiday baskets for the families they serve. ***We need these items to be donated no later than Sunday, December 8. We are collecting pancake mix, pancake syrup, and boxes of hot chocolate packets.*** Please bring these to the Meeting House or to 14 Main and we will deliver them to the food pantry.

For the remainder of the month, please bring items such as cookies, crackers, mac and cheese, hearty soups, pasta, and rice and pasta side dishes, to the Meeting House or to 14 Main. Also, last month's special plate/outreach offering raised \$1616.90 for the Hingham Food Pantry. Thanks to the Old Ship community for your generosity.

UU Urban Ministry News — The new Artists of Color catalog is available online at [Artists of Color Catalogue 2024 | UUUM - Boston, MA](#). This is a wonderful source for holiday gifts that support the thriving community of independent artists in Roxbury.

On Saturday, November 16, Old Shippers Brenda Black, Davalene Cooper, Ellie Handleman, and Laura Harbottle attended the newly created Bridges of Understanding program at the UU Urban Ministry. This program offers an opportunity to explore our racial biases, their impact, and what we can do to promote equity for all. We engaged in courageous conversations, interactive activities, lunch, and a tour of the nearby Dillaway Thomas House, where we learned about the history of the Roxbury community. It was an amazing day and we hope more of us from Old Ship will participate in this program in the future. [insert picture from attachment below]

Anti-Racism/Social Justice Drop In Book Group next meeting on January 19 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom — The book group does not meet in December. Our next meeting is in January when we will discuss the recent biography of the late Congressman John Lewis. This book, *John Lewis: In Search of the Beloved Community* by Raymond Arsenault is beautifully written and gives us a portrait of an amazing human being who made America a better place for his having lived among us.

Old Ship Social Justice Action Alert Network — Join this 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.