

## News from the Social Justice

**Council (SJC)** — Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP) is an out-of-school-time youth development center housed at the UU Urban Ministry. The goals of the programs is to uplift and support young people in Roxbury and Boston and to create achievable pathways to social and economic success. RYP was established in 1992 in response to youth violence in the community, and as a safe space for young people to find supportive resources and connections. Today, RYP continues to equip and empower young people with the skills to become leaders in their communities and beyond. You may learn more about these programs at [Roxbury Youth Programs | Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry](#). Donations can be made as part of the special plate collection in the Meeting House on Sunday, May 25, or at any time throughout the month through the Old Ship website. Click the donate button and then designate your donation for the Outreach Offering: RYP. Thanks in advance for your support of this important work that puts our UU values into the world.



Thanks to everyone who contributed to our March outreach collection for UU Mass Action. We sent them a donation of \$1,162.38. Thanks for supporting this important expression of our UU values!

## What if you didn't know when your next meal would be?

Father Bill's/MainSpring provides the answer for at least 150 people each night by serving a hot nutritious dinner to adults who are experiencing homelessness. Old Ship works to Serve Others by coordinating 6 teams of cooks who donate the Main Dish and the Salad for some of those meals. Each team provides food once a quarter (for a total of 4 meals each year by each team) on either Monday or Thursday evenings. Current team members say it easy and fun and deeply meaningful to truly help others in such a direct and important way.



Right now one of the Thursday teams needs new cooks to make Sheperd's Pie (recipe provided). The next cooking date will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in July (7/10), followed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in October, January and April. You will get a recipe and instructions on what you need to buy (costs average \$50 ) for your donation to your

team's dinner. You can join team members in helping to serve the meal in Quincy starting at 5pm, or you may drop off your donation earlier the day of or the day before your team is providing the dinner, or ask another team member to pick up and drop off your donation.

If you are not able to help, do you know someone who might like to? Please let your friends know about the need for additional cooks. Our cooking teams have always been comprised of caring persons from anywhere in our community. If you have questions or are interested in helping out, please contact [Brenda Black](#) at [blackpollara@verizon.net](mailto:blackpollara@verizon.net) or 781 740 2835.

**Anti-Racism/Social Justice Drop In Book Group Meeting on May 18 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom** — We will be discussing *Radical Reparations: Healing the Soul of a Nation* by Marcus Anthony Hunter. Hunter offers a unique and unconventional framework for considering reparations from political, intellectual, legal, economic, social, and spiritual perspectives; he offers a path forward on this important topic. Patti Smith will lead the discussion. Here is the Zoom link for the book group discussion: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86947096012?pwd=aXgcoFnPlobjb4lQB53aZLdBzFSpy5.1>

**Report on Slavery at Old Ship** — Just a reminder in case you missed it! We released our report on the history of enslaved and native people at Old Ship, including the history of our early ministers who enslaved people on March 18. Although we may discover more information in the future, the current report has been posted on the Old Ship website at [Slavery-at-Old-Ship-Final-Report-3-18-2025.pdf](#).

**Hingham Food Pantry** — This month, the food pantry is running low on the following items and has asked us to consider donating these specific foods: cookies, granola bars, minute rice and rice side dishes, crackers, pasta sauce, and 2 lb. bags of sugar. Items may be donated each week during Sunday services at the Meeting House or dropped off anytime the office is open at 14 Main Street. There also are drop off boxes for the food pantry at Stop & Shop (near the Beal Street Entrance/Exit), at Jack Conway and at Coldwell Banker. Thanks to everyone who supports our neighbors experiencing food insecurity. We have noticed an increase in donations on Sunday morning--we are grateful, as is the food pantry!

**All Church Read and Discussion: *Authentic Selves: Celebrating Trans and Nonbinary People and Their Families*** — This important and interesting book has been selected by the UUA as a Common Read for Congregations during this church year. The SJC invites everyone to read the book and attend an in-person or Zoom discussion in June as part of Pride Month. The book is available from bookstores, including online ones. You may learn more about the book at [inSpirit: UUA Bookstore and Gift Shop: Authentic Selves](#).

**UU Mass Action Advocacy Day Report** — On Tuesday, April 8, Nancy Bettinger, Ellie Handleman, Rev. Carie and a UU from the Duxbury church met with state Senator Patrick O'Connor to discuss the UU Mass Action legislative agenda. It was a successful meeting focusing on Right to Shelter, Dignity not Deportation, Indigenous Legislation including teaching of Indigenous history, eliminating Indigenous mascots, and replacing Columbus Day with Indigenous People's Day, as well as several climate bills. This is important political action that UU Mass Action keeps an eye on and gives us the opportunity to advocate on throughout the year. Feel free to ask any of our attendees for more details! And thanks to them for representing our Old Ship social justice ministry as part of this important event!

**UU Urban Ministry News** — There are several exciting events coming to the UUUM in May. Old Shippers are welcome to attend any of these events.

1. *UUM's Program Spotlight and Open House* event on Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, from 5 -7 p.m. at 10 Putnam Street in Roxbury. Questions and RSVP, email: [development@uum.org](mailto:development@uum.org). Here's what you'll experience:

- A tour of UUUM led by students from our youth program
- Presentations from each of our programs for guests highlighting their work
- Program participants will be here to share their personal experiences
- Update from UUUM staff about our work, accomplishments, and hopes for the future
- Plenty of food, drink, and dessert
- A presentation by the students from our youth program

2. *Bridges of Understanding* on Saturday, May 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the UU Urban Ministry. “Bridges of Understanding” offers us an opportunity to explore our racial biases, their impact, and what we can do to promote equity for all. We invite folks of all ages to join us for courageous conversations, interactive activities, and an opportunity to engage with fellow learners journeying toward greater self-awareness and compassion. \*Buy lunch at Nubian Market (a 5 min. walk from UUUM) or bring your own. Our own Davalene Cooper will be one of the program’s facilitators. Register at [Bridges of Understanding | UUUM - Boston, MA](#).

3. *29th Annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace*: The Mother's Day Walk for Peace is a beloved Boston tradition honoring the lives of our loved ones who have been murdered. It is the [Louis D. Brown Peace Institute's \(LDBPI\)](#) largest fundraising event to grow and sustain their services, advocacy, and training. Members of Old Ship have marched in the walk in the past, and this year both Nina Wellford and Ellie Handleman are walking. If you would like to walk or organize an Old Ship team, you may find more information, [CLICK HERE](#) to find a team to support or to register as an individual to walk on May 12th.

4. *The UUUM Peace Garden* is looking for gardeners to volunteer their services. If you enjoy getting your hands in the dirt and want to help bring beauty and life to the UUUM grounds and the peace garden, they would love to have you join them. Whether you're an experienced gardener or just someone who enjoys being outside and helping things grow, there's a place for you. If you're interested in lending a hand this season, reach out to Congregational and Volunteer Coordinator Robert Jones at [rjones@uuum.org](mailto:rjones@uuum.org)

**Join the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee Resistance Network!** UUSC is building power to resist authoritarianism. The fight for human rights has never been more urgent, and we refuse to be silent. The UUSC Resistance Network is a rapid mobilization hub—uniting people of faith and conscience to take action when civil liberties, democracy, and human rights are under attack. In the coming weeks, we will: 1) Feature stories of resistance from frontline communities and faith leaders, 2) Share which bills UUSC is watching and how to influence them, 3) Expand our resource library with knowledge, tools, and training, and 4) Mobilize for urgent actions in response to the Trump administration. Click here to join this network: [Unitarian Universalist Service Committee | Action Center](#).

**News from the International Institute of New England** — We at Old Ship have received an invitation from the International Institute of New England to come together and

support the organization and the immigrant community at their 100 year anniversary gala at the Omni Seaport Hotel in Boston on June 4 at 5:30 p.m. Click here to learn more and purchase tickets or a table at our special community partner rate (\$100 per person): <https://give.iine.org/CentennialGDA-CP>

