

News from the Social Justice

Council (SJC)



May Outreach Offering for the Hingham Food Pantry

Old Ship has supported the Hingham Food Pantry since its founding more than 30 years ago. Given the continuing issues around food insecurity, we have decided to name the Hingham Food Pantry as our special plate recipient for the month of May. We think this is an important way to serve our Hingham neighbors in need. Donations can be made online through the Old Ship website. Click the donate button and then designate your donation for the Hingham Food Pantry. The outreach offering during a Sunday service will be announced in a weekly newsletter.

In addition to this month's outreach collection, we also collect food donations for the Hingham Food Pantry each week in the Meeting House and at 14 Main; there is a basket in the vestibule for donations. ***Currently, the following items are especially needed for the pantry: Pasta Sauce, Crackers, Instant Regular and Decaf Coffee, Granulated Sugar in 1 or 2 pound bags, and Chunky Peanut Butter.***

Successful UU Mass Advocacy Day!

On April 16th, Old Ship members Davalene Cooper, Laura Harbottle, Ellie Handleman, Nina Wellford and Nancy Bettinger met with Senator O'Connor and with Representative Meschino's Aides, Jane Fulton and Harrison Bushnell, to ask to advocate support for UU Mass Action's legislative priorities. We had good discussions about bills related to Indigenous People's rights, the environment, criminal justice, trans people's rights, immigration and end-of-life options. The Senator and the Aides responded positively to all of the issues we brought forward. Kudos to Davalene for emphasizing that several of the bills reflect our deep concern for social justice beyond our own community. This is a crucial point because legislators are inclined to focus mainly on issues they believe are important to their own constituents, which can leave marginalized communities to fend for themselves. Thanks to Nancy for organizing the event and to Ellie for being our Zoom manager.

Anti-Racism "Drop In" Book Discussion on May 17, at 7 p.m. on Zoom

This month, we will be discussing *Black AF History: The Un-Whitewashed Story of America* by Michael Harriot. Harriot writes that "[t]he story of America is a fantastical, overwrought, and fictive tale. It is a fantasy where Christopher Columbus discovered a land that he never set foot in.... It is George Washington's cherry tree and Abraham Lincoln's log cabin. It is the story of slaves who spontaneously teleported themselves here with nothing but strong backs and a brainful of negro spirituals. It is Betsy Ross's sewing kit and Paul Revere's horse and Thomas Jefferson's pen and Benjamin Franklin's eyeglasses and George Washington's teeth and liberty and justice for all. And it is a history predicated on lies." In reviewing the book, Erica Taylor, in reviewing this book, stated, "Harriot peels back the layers of those lies to reveal stories about the Black experience in this country. He explains how enslaved people skilled at growing rice on the west African coast were responsible for saving "the entire Carolina economic system from collapse — with the introduction of America's first edible cash crop." He breaks down how a massive slave rebellion accelerated the process of the Territory of Orleans becoming the state of Louisiana. He documents the brief period during which formerly enslaved people actually received the 40 acres promised them by General Sherman — until the land was taken back and returned to its former Confederate owners."

All are invited to join us for a discussion led by Brenda Black. The Zoom link is <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87637841227?pwd=LVEbQGUtuRZlB83OZ5U9atbNmfgAHN.1>. (passcode is 139097, if needed). Contact Patti Smith if you have any questions.

March Outreach Update

Thanks to all who donated to L.U.C.E. Immigrant Justice Network in Massachusetts during the month of March. We recently sent them a check for \$1270.92.