

Social Justice Annual Report 2021 Jean N. Bowen, Social Justice Team Chairperson

The mission of the congregation has been implemented this year by the numerous members of the Social Justice Team and its sub-committees. The Racial Justice Committee merged into the Anti-Racist Monday night meetings to carry out the networking and advocacy of members. Over the 11 months of meeting weekly, 54 occasional and regular attendees met to discuss our privilege, awakening and how we could and can be anti-racist. Rev. DL Helfer, Jonathan Sigman and Jean Bowen were regular facilitators. Halfway thru the year we agreed to split the month to two activist/advocacy meetings. Two meetings were devoted to reading *My Grandmother's Hands* by Resmaa Menakem. Facilitated by Jonathan Sigman, Martina Muller, Barbara Holzman and Etta Zasloff. The enormous commitment by members also swept thru the congregations committees to understand the 8th Principle proposed by Black Lives of UU. In an all congregation meeting UUCSC unanimously adopted:

"We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions."

UUCSC Leaders in social justice are activists in Climate Action RI, Nature's Trust RI, The Womxn Project, Together Women Rise (formerly Dining for Women), The Arc RI, Domestic Violence Resource Center, South Kingstown affordable housing initiatives, T.A.S.K., Chariho Anti-Racism Task Force, SoRI League of Women Voters, The Huddle, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense and Safer Communities for Justice, West Kingston Elementary School Anti-Racist groups for staff and families, AMOR, Interfaith Power and Light and UU Legislative Ministry. Many thanks to Cathy Solomn, Barbara Holzman, Lisa Petrie, Taylor Ellis, Jonathan Sigman, Gail Burchard, Donna Caldwell, Rev. DL Helfer, Johnny Rodriguez, Etta Zasloff, Jean Bowen and Mary Alice Kimball.

The Share the Plate resumed in January - March featuring Guest at our Table, The Womxn Project was featured for April - June. Thanks to Mary Alice Kimball, Essjay Foulkrad for their continued support to bring community justice to the congregants. The Jonnycake Center was featured for the Agape Fund at the Christmas Eve service.

On International Women's Day in March 2021, Dining for Women changed its name and became, "Together Women Rise". The mission and vision remains the same; cultivating the collective power of community to achieve global gender equality and envisioning a world where every person has the same opportunities to thrive regardless of their gender or where they live. Our PeaceDale Chapter is one of 480 in the nation, and we continue to meet on the first Tuesday.. May began our first meeting in person, gathering at the Club House at the Village at Warden's Pond - and we will continue to meet there through the summer. Besides our chapter meetings, TWR offers opportunities for travel, participating in our book club, recipes and working as an advocate to get more funding for women and girls through Congress. Our own chapter has raised \$32,483. since we began in 2018, with approximately 20 - 40 active participants. Thanks to Gail Burchard for her leadership.

During this past year, the disability justice sub-group has not been very active, as most accessibility issues occur face-to-face, however the following actions were sustained:

- The UUCSC website continues to be maintained to support maximum visual accessibility by its large-print design.
- Recorded sermons of Rev. DL Helfer's homilies, first audio recordings and later video recordings are shared with the UUCSC via the website and FaceBook. Video recordings have the capacity to generate closed captions.
- Disability justice issues and needs will be reassessed following return to face-to-face services

Thanks to Betsy Dalton, sub-committee organizer for her leadership.