

Social Justice Monthly Update
October 2022
Cathy Solomon, Social Justice Chair

Welcome to the first of what will be a monthly update on UUCSC Social Justice Activity. So, what have we been doing?

Deepening Anti-racism Work

The Anti-Racism group resumed its summer hiatus on September 12. It meets on the second and fourth Monday of each month by Zoom. Anyone is welcome to participate as much or as little as they like. You can find the Zoom link in the UUCSC calendar.

Becoming a Better Neighbor

The Social Justice Advisory Team (Cathy Solomon, Penny Hall, Nancy Richman and Etta Zasloff) have contacted several social service agencies in South County to find out more about their work and learn what the needs of the community are. The purpose of this activity is multi-fold: to educate ourselves about our local resources, to determine how the UUCSC can assist or supplement these efforts and “be a better neighbor”, and ultimately to educate our congregation. We will share a “fact sheet” each month featuring one of these agencies. This month it is **The Warm Center** in Westerly.

Tuning up Our Communications

The Social Justice page on the UUCSC website has been updated to be more relevant. [Take a look!](#) An Advocacy email list has been created. Those of you who signed up on the Social Justice survey will be notified of actions as we hear of them..

Focusing in on Legislative Action

The UU Legislative Forum is a group of folks from the various UUs in RI that meets monthly to discuss legislative action. Cathy is the UUCSC representative to this group. On November 29th at 7pm, we are hosting the Forum with several legislators from around the state (including South County!). They will discuss the specific bills they expect to be introduced or resurrected in the next General Assembly session starting in January 2023. This event will be on Zoom and will be open to all UUs in RI. Stay tuned for more details.

Getting Guidance on Climate Action

Several members of the Social Justice Advisory group are participating in a three month Zoom series offered through the UUA’s Side With Love, focused on Climate Disaster Preparedness. The series is giving us solid guidance for assessing climate impacts on our local community and mobilizing for action when disaster strikes.

We need someone to step up to lead our climate justice efforts. Please let Cathy know if you are interested.

Supporting the Providence Reparations Proposal

The Providence City Council Finance Committee approved the allocation of \$10MM in ARPA funds to finance a reparations program recommended by the Providence Municipal Reparations Commission. Several UU members attended in support of the budget.

The Warm Center Fact Sheet

Mission: Treat everyone who seeks its services with compassion, dignity and respect

Service Area: Southern RI and Eastern CT

Helping since: 1987

Services include: Shelter for homeless (19 beds), plus 13 transitional apartments and 5 permanent housing for the disabled, meals through Anita's Kitchen, social services, clothing, summer lunches for children, income tax assistance, and street outreach.

Of note: The Warm Center recently took over the Welcome House in Peace Dale, which is home to 17 formerly homeless men and women.

Website: www.warmcenter.org/

