

Social Justice Update
November 2022
Cathy Solomon, Social Justice Chair

Here is an update on Social Justice activities at the UUCSC.

Anti-Racism focus expanded to include Anti-Semitism

The Anti-Racism group has been discussing the disturbing increase in Anti-Semitic threats and violence. They have also individually gotten involved in the November elections.

There will be a group read of the book “Of Blood and Sweat” by Clyde Ford. This is open to the entire congregation. Stay tuned for more information about discussion dates.

A sub-group of participants will be meeting to discuss the idea of building relationships/coalitions with other local faith based groups and social service neighbors to organize a campaign to Stop Hate.

Anyone can drop in to an Anti-Racism meeting. The meetings are every second and fourth Tuesday at 7pm via Zoom. The Zoom link can be found on the UUCSC website calendar.

Becoming a Better Neighbor Spotlight: Rhode Island Center Assisting those in Need (RICan)

As a continuation of learning more about the social service agencies serving South County, Cathy Solomon toured this facility located in Charlestown. See the fact sheet attached.

New Advocacy Action Email!

A new communication has been created to provide notice of (mostly) local actions you can participate in to share your voice. The **UUCSC Call To Action** will be sent via email to interested individuals in the congregation

who want to be notified of activism opportunities. Many times these actions have a short notification window which would preclude us from putting them into the newsletter. So they will be sent separately when the opportunity presents itself. Currently, these emails are sent to members of the congregation who completed the Social Justice survey in May and indicated that they want to be notified of activism activities. If you would like to be added to that list, please let me know. Just as important, if you are aware of an action that you feel your fellow congregants would be interested in, please send the information to me.

What Will LawMakers Be Focused on When the General Assembly begins in January 2023?

The UULM-RI presented a live Zoom conversation with UpriseRI publisher Steve Ahlquist on October 25th. Steve talked about current events surrounding the November state elections and the upcoming General Assembly session beginning in January.

A legislative forum has been planned for November 29 in which four state legislators will be part of a panel to discuss the legislative priorities for the new session. More details after 11/11. This is open to all UU's in the state and offered via Zoom.

Rhode Island Center Assisting those in Need (RICan)

Mission: To provide, with dignity, emergency food and outreach for at-risk neighbors in southern Rhode Island and the surrounding communities.

Who they serve:

Westerly	24%
South Kingstown	20%
Charlestown	16%
Hopkinton	13%
Richmond	9%
Narragansett	5%
North Kingstown	3%
Coventry	2%
Exeter	2%
Others	6%

Helping Since: 2001

Services Include: Emergency food assistance, food pantry, thrift shop, holiday programs, financial assistance

Note: The director indicated that the number of people coming to the food pantry has increased tremendously due to inflation. In addition to food insecurity, a portion of their clientele has housing insecurity.

Website: rhodeislandcan.org