

**Social Justice Update**  
**December 2022**  
**Cathy Solomon, Social Justice Chair**

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

**Anti-Racism Committee**

The Anti-Racism group is taking steps toward building a coalition in South County to promote safety and address hate in the community. A sub-group of the committee has been meeting to determine how to accomplish this. But first, they are taking the brave steps of addressing their own biases and experiences by reviewing and discussing various books and readings.

If you have any ideas, suggestions or recommendations on this topic, please join our next meeting. The meetings are every second and fourth Tuesday at 7pm via Zoom. The Zoom link can be found on the UUCSC website calendar. If you are not a meeting person, reach out directly to Nancy Richman.

**Becoming a Better Neighbor Spotlight: Jonnycake Center for Hope, Peace Dale**

As a continuation of learning more about the social service agencies serving South County, please read the summary of the Jonnycake Center for Hope, which has recently opened up a new space a stone's throw from the UU and is replacing the thrift shop on the Peace Dale circle with a youth center.

**UU Legislative Ministry Legislative Forum - Focus on Climate Action**

Two veteran legislators, Senator Dawn Euer, District 13 and Representative Lauren Carson, District 75, participated in a forum presented by the UU Legislative Forum of RI on November 29th via zoom. Both legislators were instrumental in the passage of the Act on Climate Bill this year and were asked to update us on the progress that has been made since the bills

went into effect. The legislators then each discussed the issues they thought were important and that they were going to focus on in the 2023 General Assembly session. These included the Environmental Justice Act, lead pipe replacement, utility reform, creating a department on aging and a housing foreclosure mediation plan.

The UULMRI is hoping to hold a second forum at the beginning of the year. Stay tuned for more information.

### **LGBTQ Justice**

The UUCSC proudly participated in the Trans Day of Joy event at the Contemporary Theater in Wakefield on November 12. The event was organized by LGBTQ Action RI and featured speakers information about local organizations, available resources for individuals and families and actions to take in support of transgender equality in the state. The event began the annual Transgender Awareness Week, a week each year designated to uplifting resilience, love and acceptance among, and in support of, transgender community members.

### **Book Launch and Educational Forum on Racism**

Local author Theresa Schimmel launched her most recent novel, Yankee Girl in Dixie, at the Kingston Free Library on November 19, 2022 with an education panel of RI leaders from various organizations that work toward a more racially equitable society. Etta Zasloff represented the UUCSC Anti Racism Group on the panel.

### **Woman's Reproductive Health**

The UUCSC Social Justice Team is a part of a state-wide campaign the pass the Equality in Abortion Care Act bill. At present, although the right to an abortion is protected under RI law thanks to the passage in 2019 of the Reproductive Privacy Act, some public health insurance programs do not cover the cost of the procedure. This includes people on Medicaid and state employees. The EACA asks the state to remove these bans and adjust the state budget to cover these expenses. The bill has been introduced each year for the past two years but with the new sponsors, Rep

Edie Ajello and Sen Leonela Felix, there is momentum. Stay tuned for opportunities to show support in person at the State House and via postcard campaigns.

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## **Jonnycake Center for Hope, Peace Dale**

**Mission:** Provide basic needs, resources and hope to our community members.

**Who They Serve:** South County. Food services available to South Kingstown, Narragansett, Jamestown and Block Island.

**Helping Since:** 1973

### **Services Include:**

Jonnycake Market: groceries and produce, school vacation meals, deliveries to seniors.

Healthy Eating and Living: Cooking classes for adults and kids, physical fitness activities and opportunities for recreation and socialization for all ages through collaborations with URI, RI community Food Bank and others.

Empowering and Enriching Youth: Through quality education, enrichment and empowerment opportunities. Partnering with the Boys and Girls Club of Newport and the South County YMCA for summer camp and after school programs.

Building Credit and Credentials : Credit building and repair program

Jonnycake Neighbors: Landlord incentives, a Ready to Rent course, intensive housing search and housing for as many as fifteen local families once renovations are complete.

**NOTE:** The JC recently closed its thrift shop on the Peace Dale circle to make room for youth activities and support.

**Website:** <https://www.jonnycakecenter.org/about/>