

Social Justice Annual Report 2021-2022 Unitarian Universalist Church Bloomington IN



Social Justice permeates all programming at the UU Church of Bloomington – worship, religious education, fellowship, and special groups like Chalice Circles and the choir. Social Justice Task Forces are formed when a number of people wish to work together around a specific social justice area.

Our congregation is very active in many areas of social justice. With the pandemic, activities have changed and in some cases been delayed. In other areas particularly with hunger and homelessness, activities have increased substantially. We are looking for new energy and leadership for End of Life and Rainbow Rights task forces. Thanks to all for your continued and ongoing commitment to Change the World!

End of Life Task Force (EOLTF) believes that our cultural consciousness needs to change with respect to death, terminal illnesses, aging, grief, and other parts of the end of life and will work to do so. Tracy Turner.

This task force will be reconvening – please contact Tracy or Jackie Hall.



The **Green Sanctuary Task Force** promotes mindful, Earth centered living, working to educate and motivate individuals and institution to take positive steps toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions with the understanding that it is our moral imperative to care for the Earth. [Marcia Veldman](#)

The Green Sanctuary Task Force Annual Report

The GSTF activities have been limited during the pandemic, but we were able to keep in touch and move some projects forward.

Energy Report/Energy Star rating

In 2015 UUCB signed on to Interfaith Power and Light's Paris Pledge. This pledge commits us to working towards a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, and carbon neutrality by 2050.. While we have already met our interim goal of a 50% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, the harder steps are ahead. Following our activities that are underway to assist us in getting to net zero.

- For the 7th straight year UUCB has been certified in the upper 90th percentile for US buildings of worship. This year, based on data Molly supplied through mid-October 2021, we are at 98%.
- Because of our work in greening our building, grounds and engaging our members, we were asked to join the first cohort of "Thriving Faith

Communities" (TFC), a program initiated by Hoosier Interfaith Power and Light (which has since merged with the Wisconsin and Illinois IPL affiliates under the name Faith in Place). The members of a dozen congregations met weekly by Zoom to share knowledge and experiences in reducing their carbon footprint in their buildings. As a member of TFC we were able to receive a free energy audit and apply for and receive a matching grant of \$5,053 to implement some of the audit's recommendations.

The matching funds are to come from the extra funds raised for solar panels in 2017, invested by the Special Purposes Fund as "Paris Pledge" funds. This will allow us to replace the two oldest HVAC systems with highly efficient, electric air source heat pumps.

Spring Clothing Swap

The spring clothing swap returned in May of 2021 in an open air shelter at Bryan Park.

Conversation with Frances Moore Lappe

The GSTF had the honor of hosting a conversation with Frances Moore Lappe in November 2021 during her visit to IU as the Patten Lecturer. Lappe is a fellow UU and was impressed by our congregation's commitment to living lightly on the Earth.

Viewing of *Mission Joy*

In November/December 2021 we made available to the congregation the viewing of *Mission Joy*. Inspired by *New York Times* bestseller *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World*, the film showcases the exchange between the Dalai Lama and Bishop Desmond Tutu that led to that book.

Annual Tree Giveaway

Three varieties of saplings- hazelnut, redbud and pecan – were available for free to congregants in conjunction with the Earth Day service. All remaining saplings were donated to CanopyBloomington.

Interfaith Alliance Earth Day Celebration

The GSTF supported the Bloomington Multifaith Alliance's Earth Day celebration at First United, bringing together faith communities around care for our common home.

GSTF Financial Support to Non-profits

Canopy Bloomington (\$200); Citizens' Climate Lobby (\$200); Hoosier-Interfaith Power and Light for the Faith and Climate Summit (\$500).

GSTF Members Active in Other Environmental Groups

GSTF members are active with Earth Care Bloomington, Faith in Place (formerly Hoosier Interfaith Power and Light), Bring Your Bag Bloomington, Citizens' Climate Lobby, and Center for Sustainable Living.



Habitat for Humanity Task Force strives to educate the congregation about housing needs of Monroe County, including purpose and accomplishments of Habitat for Humanity and other related housing groups. Congregation can contribute in many ways to help provide decent affordable housing in Monroe County. Barb Berggoetz

The Habitat Task Force Annual Report

The Habitat Task Force during 2021-22 had a primary focus of reinvigorating some fundraising projects and building activities, as UU and the local Habitat chapter moved out of COVID19 restrictions. Habitat, which suspended volunteer building for about 1 ½ years, except for the Women Build in fall 2020, started to accept build volunteers again in May 2021.

Habitat Task Force members are: Barb Berggoetz, chair, members Kathleen Chmelewski, Jackie Hall, Mary Blizzard, Kathy Sideli, Brian and Pearl Springfield, Dian Robbins, Laura Hannam, Deb Martin, Sandy Davoren, Richard Stumpner and Licia Weber. Several new UUs have voiced an interest in joining and/or volunteering and other UUs typically participate in builds, fundraisers and contributing money. The task force usually meets between services on the first Sunday of most months, but we conducted much of our work during 2021-22 by email. We conducted our first in-person meeting in two years in March 2022.

Objectives/funds: Educate the congregation about local housing needs, including the purpose and accomplishments of Habitat and other housing-related groups; support Habitat by providing volunteers, food and raising money for builds and its needs, including equipment. As of May 2022, we had \$5,937.52.

During the 2021-22 year, the task force's activities included:

- **Contribution to 2021 Women Build:** We contributed \$16,000, raised over three years, to help sponsor two Women Build homes in Osage Place neighborhood. Habitat had a harder time raising needed funds due to higher construction costs, so we decided to support this project to help close a funding gap. This was in addition to our UU and friends team members individually raising \$16,500.
- **Chili/soup take-home fundraiser:** We sponsored an online chili/soup fundraiser on March 12-13, and after services, by offering several types of chili and soup, plus corn bread, made by task force members and supporters. We earned \$815.
- **Social Justice Moment in March 2022:** Barb Berggoetz talked about Habitat for Humanity's current bold plans for its new Osage Place, which now has three homes and will grow to 69 homes, and highlighted the chili take-home fundraiser.
- **Habitat Women Build extension in 2022:** We supplied about eight builders, including four participants from the UU Coming of Age program, to help complete two houses started in the fall of 2021.
- **UU 25% Sunday Plate Fund:** Our proposal was among the top three groups chosen for a congregational vote on June 12. We proposed funds for Habitat's homeowner education program, a series of classes focusing on financial management, home and yard maintenance, stress management and other topics, which all homeowners must take.
- **Online UU Holiday Bazaar:** We sold handmade crafts donated by task force members and other UUs in December 2021 and earned \$1,275.

- **Habitat's fall More Than Houses event:** We participated in Habitat's main fundraiser, located at Osage Place neighborhood, by sending information about Habitat to 15 UUsers and requesting contributions. Several UUsers attended.
- **UU Social Justice grant:** We applied for and received a \$1,000 grant for Habitat for Humanity to build a much-needed storage facility at the Osage Place neighborhood that will be used to store materials and equipment for builds and volunteers.



Help Feed Our Hungry Neighbors Task Force(HFOHN) engages in projects to reduce hunger in our community: monthly College Square (Walnut Grove) Pantry, Christmas baskets for MCUM, Bountyful Sunday Food Drives , staffing Shalom breakfast once a month. Mary Blizzard

Help Feed Our Hungry Neighbors Task Force Annual Report 2021-22

18 members - 12 active • 35 - 40 congregational volunteers

Current Balance: As of 4/28 2022: \$6659.69

- **College Square Pantry:** Our last pantry was reluctantly held in December, due to most of us "aging out" of this project. We were able to find a young crew of people from another church who enthusiastically took it over, and continue to deliver excellent service to the clients there.
- **College Square Pantry Volunteer Appreciation BBQ** was held on Pine Lane in August to express our appreciation to all the volunteers from the congregation that helped to keep the pantry going through the years.
- **MCUM Holiday Basket Food Drive.** An annual project. (November 2021)
- **Monthly Food Drives:** Recipients: Area 10, Afghan refugee family, Little Free Pantry (ongoing)
- **Hot Breakfasts at Shalom:** Financial support for two monthly breakfasts (ongoing). No face to face volunteering yet.
- **Community Kitchen Help:** Two shifts per month, two volunteers per shift, face to face (ongoing)
- **Support for UU Families:** planning to raise the value of these grocery cards to \$100/ individual and \$150/family, assisted by Sharon Yarbor as a liaison person. (ongoing)
- **Little Free Pantry:** located next to Needmore Coffee on Pete Ellis Drive. This has been an ongoing successful project. A task force committee oversees the maintenance. (ongoing) distributing approximate 120 lbs / week.

FUNDRAISERS

- **IU Football Parking**

- **Online Fiber Arts Booth** at Holiday Bazaar. (December 2021)

FUTURE PROJECTS

- **Each One Feed One:** MCUM's biggest annual food drive. Help with providing drop off points and publicity
- **Outreach to elementary schools:** Determine needy families who suddenly have a food crisis

FUTURE FUNDRAISING PROJECTS PLANS:

- An **online UU store**, open to all task forces
- **Time for Change:** Go house to house gathering loose change from members of the congregation.
- A **Mexican meal** open to the congregation
- **Buttons:** to be sold at bazaar. MB can design and produce.
- Make and sell **Triominoes**



The **Homelessness Task Force** works with agencies to provide services/support to homeless people, to develop strategies dealing with issues related to homelessness including hunger and unemployment, and to end homelessness. Alan Backler

The Homelessness Task Force Annual Report

The purpose of the task force is to work with agencies in Monroe County to support people experiencing homelessness and poverty in our community. This past year, the taskforce engaged in the following activities:

- **A winter clothing drive for men, women, and children in need in Monroe County.** We worked in association with other congregations in the county as well as other organizations and the Bloomington Fire Department. Over 130 men, women, and children picked out clothing on the final day of the drive for their use. Additional clothing was distributed to agencies serving the homeless.
- **An underwear drive for school children of all ages in the Monroe County Community School System.** The clothing gathered was distributed by school social workers at all community schools.
- **Fund-raiser events for agencies in the county that focus on homelessness—**this year we gathered funds at the church for New Hope for Families, a local agency that provides housing and support services to families experiencing homelessness.
- **Prepare breakfasts** on a regular basis in the kitchen at Shalom Community Center. Serve on committees at Shalom.

- **Gather food and clothing from UUCB members** at the church, everyday, that is distributed to Shalom Community Center and to the Hunger Taskforce for use in their programs.
- Currently, Alan Backler and Marlin Howard serve as the co-chairs of the taskforce. We have been working with Nathan Stonecipher to take over as chairperson of the taskforce in the fall of 2022.



The **Hope for Prisoners Task Force (HFPTF)** works on projects based on recognizing humanity of those in prison and their families. The goal of this task force is to serve and advocate for individuals during incarceration and their return to this community, and also their families and support systems with a major effort to support KAP, Kids with Absent Parents. Deb Fish Mary Goetze

The Hope for Prisoners Annual Report

May 2022

- With the help of UUCB member, Phillip Stroud, our task force impacts many inmates at Pendleton Reformatory with funds sent to purchase hygiene products, coffee, etc. Many inmates in J cell house know that this is provided by funding from HFPTF.
- Funds sent to support Death Penalty Action
- Funds for the purchase of work shoes for recently released persons from MOCO so they could get jobs
- Money put on Trust Funds of UUCB incarcerated members that allows them to purchase news feed, podcast, music and hygiene products.
- Fabric donated by Nedra Carlson delivered to Wabash Valley Correctional Institution PLUS Program to be made into quilts; one quilt donated to the Spring Auction.
- Connections to groups outside of UUCB
 - IDOC WATCH,
 - New Leaf New Life,
 - Amethyst House (men and women),
 - Abolition Coalition,
 - Monroe County Jail

KAP Activities 2021-2022

- KAP has been able to resume bi-monthly meetings for the past year.
- In July, we sent 10 children to Camp Rancho Framas for 3 days and overnights, providing them with a great experience and the caregivers a much needed break.
- In September we formed a partnership with the Boys and Girls Club, and they provide space for our gatherings at their Lincoln Street facility
- Bob LeBien and Jean Strohm have underwritten a climbing program under the supervision of Tommy Gardener, a recreational therapist for kids 8 and older. They climbed once a month during the last school year at Hoosier Heights.

- Trinity Church hosted a holiday dinner in December, and starting May 2022 will be providing lunch once a month.
- A group of music students earned service learning credit by assisting our volunteers during the spring semester. The children love having younger volunteers.
- Children will attend camp this summer, and caregivers organized a fundraiser that brought in over \$1200. We also received a \$1000 grant from Trinity Church's Outreach program.
- We have 21 children from 11 families.



The **International Outreach Task Force (IOTF)** expand and improve cross-cultural and international understanding through hands on involvement with projects fulfilling local needs in developing countries. Currently three projects are in Kenya: Claire Robertson and Jason Blankenship

The International Outreach Task Force Annual Report

The chief task of the IOTF of UUCB is raising funds to help worthy causes in developing nations, where we have historically helped projects in Liberia, Haiti and, most prominently, Kenya. Hence this is a report about fundraising. Due to COVID restrictions our fundraising since 2019 has been minimal until recently. We had one yard sale. However, we took advantage of Ed Robertson's mother's passing last July to do fundraising with an enthusiastic crowd of her friends (she was a big supporter) in Minneapolis-St. Paul in April and May, and succeeded beyond our expectations. Plus, because we did not go to Kenya in 2021 we did not distribute funds as usual. We already decided that we were no longer funding two of the three projects previously funded due to various problems, so that all of the money raised will go to Spurgeon School in Kibera, Nairobi, which now has some 600 students. Kenyanito Dudi, the principal, told me that during the shutdown they fed some 5000 families in Kibera and set up handwashing stations provided with soap made by single moms, who were paid for it, so got some income. I asked him to submit a proposal, a list of their needs and he did so 2 weeks ago. Here it is, translated into US dollars, the most urgent need being buying food.

Spurgeon Budget in US Dollars

Foodstuffs	\$7300
Books/Teaching Materials	\$4764
Desks	\$4100
Infrastructure Repairs	\$4400
Staff Salaries, 1 month	\$3332
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Total	\$23,896

Thanks to the successful fundraising efforts in Minnesota we have now made up some of our losses from the past 2 years, so we can take a shot at covering all of this, depending on how we do in the upcoming sale. Our meeting last night set up good ways to approach this,

so we hope for the best, especially in publicizing the sale and attendance. We are fortunate to have generous community support.

Since we as a group have always taken a hands-on approach to projects we support we hope to go to Kenya again in 2023. We also hope to recruit more active participants at UUCB in pursuing our motto: "Have fun while doing good!" We will resume our monthly bake sales ASAP.



The **Just Peace Task Force** works to promote peace and justice in the world, recognizing the essential role of grassroots organizing in creating a consensus for a new foreign and military policy. David Keppel

The Just Peace Task Force Annual Report

Because of the pandemic, the task force did not meet or hold events in person. However, we were able to continue meeting online.

The focus of the peace movement was the opportunity for a new foreign and military policy under a new presidential administration. We particularly hoped for a change in U.S. policy on nuclear weapons. In the spring of 2022, we held Zoom meeting with U.S. Senators Todd Young and Mike Braun. The meetings were cordial. Senator Young made clear that he supports the U.S. threat to use nuclear weapons first in a conflict. Thus he opposes the No First Use policy that we advocate. Senator Braun seemed much more open to the idea and invited us to meet with him in person.

Like many peace advocates, we are deeply disappointed that President Biden's Nuclear Posture Review does not contain the changes he proposed in the campaign. It is largely a continuation of President Trump's aggressive and dangerous nuclear policy.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has been a terrible setback for the peace movement. While strongly condemning Putin's invasion, and supporting aid to Ukraine, we are opposed to escalation and are alarmed that the Biden administration's goals appear to be changing in such a way that there is little room for a negotiated settlement. We expect to continue speaking out in the coming year.



The **Racial Justice Task Force** joins UU communities across the US, and with faith, arts, and civic organization around the city and state, to educate, organize, and take action on racial justice issues.. Ruth Aydt and Martha Oakley

The Racial Justice Task Force Annual Report

The Racial Justice Task Force continued to be guided by four major themes identified in 2021:

- We will deepen our understanding of racial injustice and its historical context.
- We will raise our awareness of current racial justice issues in our communities – issues that may be invisible to many of us in our day-to-day lives.
- We will build and strengthen relationships with Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) in our communities.

- We will engage in service activities led by BIPOC groups.

The mailing list served as the primary means of communicating information and resources. Meetings this year were infrequent and held over zoom. Finances were reviewed at our November meeting and several groups were identified to receive support. Email was used to solicit input about other possible expenditures in 2022.

The task force received funds from the UUCB capital campaign, a UUCB Social Justice Grant, football parking fundraiser, and a generous contribution by Gladys DeVane. Grant funds received several years ago to support a trip to Lyles Station were returned to the Social Justice Special Purpose Fund, as it remained unclear when the trip might be possible with COVID-19.

Related to expenditures, the task force:

- Contributed to the Islamic Center of Bloomington after they experienced vandalism.
- Made an unrestricted gift to Black Lives Matter of Bloomington whose projects include Farm to Families, micro-grants, and holiday gifts – reaching people who may not be served by other agencies in the community.
- Applied for and received a Social Justice Grant to be a Platinum Sponsor for the NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet, supporting the work of the local NAACP branch and allowing task force members to attend the banquet
- Provided support to UUCB member Phillip Stroud, who continues to build relationships that acknowledge the inherent worth and dignity of marginalized individuals.
- Provided funds to help cover airfare for UUCB member Whyne Reed to attend the UUA General Assembly in June 2022.
- Committed to supporting a Resilience Productions event, scheduling TBD.
- Set aside funds to support a speaker, details TBD.

Related to activities, the task force:

- Served (delicious) soul food and drink at Resilience Productions presentation of “A Soulful Thanksgiving” at the Monroe County History Center.
- Shared an invitation from Bethel AME church to attend a service and picnic and to contribute back-to-school supplies to support Fairview Elementary School. Several members attended, and our UUCB congregation donated generously to the school supply drive. We hope to invite Bethel AME members to an event at UUCB in the future.
- Task force co-chairs, together with Michele Grove, Stephanie Kimball, Rev. Bill Breeden, and Rev. Emily Manvel Leite, facilitated a spring 2022 Adult RE series focused on [Widening the Circle of Concern: Report of the UUA Commission on Institutional Change](#). Several task force members contributed to the thought-provoking and enlightening discussions, which will continue in the fall of 2022.



The **Rainbow Rights Task Force** seeks to work with and for the congregation in the area of LGBTQ rights and concerns.

This task force is temporary suspended – looking for new leadership and vision. See Jackie Hall



The **Reproductive Justice Task Force (RJTF)** promotes an active liberal voice to educate ourselves and the community, advocates for reproductive justice, and connects with community partners to ensure reproductive justice for all women and men. Nan McKinley or Cindy Lonnberg

The Reproductive Justice Task Force (RJTF) Annual Report

RJTF mobilizes around the concept of reproductive justice as “the right to bodily autonomy, to have children or not have children, and to parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities”. We educate, advocate and connect within the church and with outside community partners to support and advance reproductive justice for all.

Ongoing Work:

- Legislative liaison: A member monitors relevant bills during legislative sessions and reports out to the task force weekly with “action items” (e.g. phone calls, letters, testimony, committee watch/observation, rallies, etc.).
- City/County Council- supportive presence and public comments @ meetings for Planned Parenthood (PP) and All-Options Pregnancy Resource Center (AOPRC) grant submissions.
- Local PP:
 - Escort service now run by PP, in line with national guidelines
 - “Snack Stewards” provide snacks/drinks to patients and their support persons while awaiting abortions; staff provides access to snacks during pandemic.
- AOPRC:
 - Promote and volunteer as peer counselors and Talkline support
 - Virtual diaper drive
 - Annual Hoosier Abortion Fund drive
 - promote the Practical Support Network-provides rides and other support to women seeking abortion access
- 4th Trimester Team- trains volunteers who provide postpartum support to members and friends of the UU community
- Monitor the implementation and work of the state’s Maternal Mortality Review Committee, mandated by 2018’s Public Law 48.

Fundraising/Donations:

- Football parking
- February Siding With Love bake sale
- Hoosier Abortion Fund - donation of \$1700 by the task force plus donations by UU members brings our total to \$3323. The event is ongoing through May.
- Annual UUCB \$300 grant for PP Snack Stewards
- All Options (AO) Diaper Program - donation of \$1000 from the task force (for general use) and donations by the congregation and friends to the AO diaper website in the fall.



The **Refugee and Immigrant Support and Education (RISE) Task Force** welcomes people from other countries and reaches out to support folks new to our community and form friendships. Barb Backler and Cindy Mosca

The Refugee and Immigration Support and Education (RISE) Task Force Annual Report

Since December most of our task force's efforts have gone toward sponsoring an Afghan Family. Mohammad and Shabnam Fakherduin have four children, all boys, and are expecting another boy in July. Mohammad is fluent in English, but the other members of the family are learning English. They are renting a duplex in the southwest of Bloomington until June. Exodus has been paying their rent, but they are expecting to withdraw financial support when the family moves to a different place in Green Acres. We have a wonderful group of UUs, who are part of our sponsorship team. They have provided a variety of supports including:

- donating funds and a car;
- providing transportation to appointments, playgrounds, climbing wall, Wonderlab, Iftar at the mosque;
- researching job opportunities and early childhood opportunities, entertainment possibilities for the children for spring break and summer time, housing, English language opportunities;
- tutoring in English;
- setting up kindergarten roundup evening;
- providing a chance to earn some income selling the traditional Afghan bread;
- making sure they always have enough food;
- and visiting their home on a regular basis for tea and friendship.

Our team has worked closely with the Refugee Support Network (RSN), and RISE will join them in providing rent support for the next year for this family. Pete Lenzen, the operations director on the board of RSN, has been a major supporter and friend of our sponsored family. Because he is so knowledgeable about the resources in Bloomington and has close relationships with administrators of these organizations, he knows right where to go for help for refugees, and he has been a huge help to our committee as well as the Fakherduin family. He set up all the healthcare appointments for all 6 members of the family. I would estimate he has attended close to 30 medical and dental appointments with help for transportation from our team. Because the Refugee Support Network is so important to refugees in Bloomington and because we have seen firsthand how impactful this organization is in moving families from dependency to successful independence, our RISE task force has submitted a proposal to the Social Justice Funds Committee for the 25% of the Sunday Morning Plate Fund to be awarded to RSN.

Our RISE team that is sponsoring the Fakherduin family is also a part of a larger Bloomington organization of churches who are also sponsoring Afghan families. We keep in touch with each other and try to share information and ideas. First United Church is sponsoring a potluck gathering at Cascades Park on May 20th which will bring all of the

newly arrived Afghan families together along with their sponsorship teams. What a great opportunity for our families to meet other Afghans and for all of us to get to know these folks and develop friendships with them. It's all part of creating a Bloomington community that is welcoming to refugees.

We are still partnering with RSN to bring an asylum seeker out of a detention center. Asylum seekers are folks who are here legally, but they can't be released from detention centers until they have a sponsor. We met recently with ASSP – Asylum Seekers Sponsorship Program – to share our current interests in sponsoring a family from Africa or Central America who is currently in a detention center in the U.S.

On the Exodus Refugee Organization's website it states: "According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, a refugee is a person who, owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of **race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion**, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country." Exodus is a humanitarian program, hired by the U.S. government that provides protection and opportunity to refugees fleeing persecution and war. They provide services to refugee newcomers from the point of arrival to self-sufficiency. We now have an Exodus branch in Bloomington. Erin Aquino is the Bloomington Resettlement Director. There is a Zoom meeting with Exodus every other week where we can learn the latest news about immigrants and ways to offer support. Recently we were presented with a document that shares good information on a strengths-based and empowerment model of resettlement. I sent a copy to our team members. Always the goal is helping our refugees move toward self-sufficiency. Our family is very anxious to be independent, and it's great to watch them be able to take more and more ownership of their lives.

I send out periodic newsletters to our RISE members sharing the latest about local refugee families like the Uyghur family that was reunited this year, telling the story of the Kammins, our UU church members, who sponsored a refugee family in the early 90s and how well they are all doing today, and important information about immigration policy. I just heard about a book, Ungrateful Refugee by Dina Nayeri. I'd like to read this and discuss it with others. If there is interest, I'll purchase some copies that can be circulated to RISE members.

Social Justice Funds Committee

Fall SJ Grants Campaign

In October 2021, SJFC sought grant applications for funding consideration by the church's SJ grants fund. The following grants were recommended and awarded:

Racial Justice Task Force: \$750 to purchase a Platinum Sponsorship at the Monroe County Branch NAACP Freedom Banquet.

Habitat Task Force: \$1000 to purchase a small storage shed that Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County would install and use at the site of its new Osage Place neighborhood.

Homelessness Task Force: \$1000 to purchase bowls, plates and mugs for Shalom Community Center for breakfast.

Team First Book Monroe County: \$750 to award grants to schools and programs with low income children to purchase books for children to won and take home.

Spring 25% Plate Fund Campaign

In March 2019, SJFC sought nominations for non-profit agencies to be the recipient of 25% of undesignated Sunday Plate funds for July 2022-June 2023. SJFC selected these three to present to the congregation for a vote at the June 2022 congregational meeting. SJFC is using multiple avenues to educate the congregation about these agencies including tabling a display between services throughout May.

Tandem Community Birth Center and Postpartum House - nominated by emily Phelp

Refugee Support Network - nominated by Barbara Backler

Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County - nominated by Barb Berggoetz

SJFC Members: Denise Ogren, chair Steve Mascari, Jay Sisson, Sarah Kopper, Sandy Davoren Advisors: Jackie Hall and Bill Bre

Sunday Social Justice Film Series Annual Report

Program suspended due to pandemic