

Social Justice Annual Report 2020-2021 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. 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 or Kathy Gilbert.

The End of Life Task Force Annual Report

In the past year, the End-of-Life Task Force co-sponsored the Gathering of Spirits event that took place on the grounds of the church in concert with the annual Day of the Dead service. We also held several coffee hour Zoom breakout sessions.

We have several ideas brewing for the coming year. We continue to plan to hold monthly coffee hour Zoom sessions, as long as the services continue to be held online. Once we are able to meet indoors, we plan to hold coffee hour mini-workshops on various aspects of end-of-life planning, such as memorial and funeral planning, ways to ease the challenges of talking about your wishes for end-of-life care with loved ones, and how to talk to a person who has experienced a loss. We will continue to work with Rev. Macklin as we move forward.



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

For the 6th 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-December 2020, we are at 96%.

Fiscal Year 20 Energy Summary (mid-May 2020 to mid-April 2021, while building was largely closed)

From mid-May 2020 to mid-April 2021 our solar panels produced 1.43% more electricity than was used. Of that, 38% was used directly from the panels and the rest (62%) was sent to the grid to offset our usage. (In 2019, before the pandemic, 89% of the electricity produced was directly used or offset, 41% of which was used on site.). Energy produced by the solar panels resulted in a savings of \$4,673.

Carbon Footprint Assessment by Carbon Neutral Indiana

UUCB's carbon footprint was assessed by Carbon Neutral Indiana. In order to meet our Paris Pledge of being carbon neutral by 2050, we need to reduce or offset about 42.2 mtCO₂e annually. We have already exceeded the commitment to reduce our carbon emissions by 50% by 2030 and certainly will work to reach carbon neutrality well before 2050.

Sunshine Spectacular Drive-thru Festival

The GSTF gave away hundreds of trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals at the Sunshine Spectacular Drive-thru Festival.

Earth Day Bird Walk

Eve Cusack lead a group of UU'ers on a bird walk at Winslow Woods Park.

Friday Update Weekly Tips

Thanks to Sura Gail, each Friday Update concludes with a tip on small steps we can take to better care for our Earth.

Environmental Voter Project Get out the Vote

GSTF members participated in the Environmental Voter Project's get out the vote efforts, teaming up to call people who hold concerns for the environment, but don't typically vote.

Endorsement of the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act

The GSTF endorsed the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, a carbon fee and dividend style approach to addressing climate change that, if enacted, will dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions while ensuring low- and moderate-income households remain financially whole.



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 2020-21 had a primary focus of raising funds to co-sponsor a Habitat home as soon as possible, and trying to do a limited number of fundraising activities to support that goal while keeping task force members as engaged as possible. With the advent of COVID19, Habitat suspended the volunteer building activities through May 2021, for the most part, with the exception of a curtailed Women Build in the fall of 2020.

Habitat Task Force members are: Barb Berggoetz, chair, members Kathleen Chmelewski, Nedra Carlson, Jackie Hall, Angela Lexmond, Mary Blizzard, Kathy Sideli, Brian and Pearl Springfield, Dian Robbins, Dirk and Susan Herr-Hoyman, Laura Hannam, Deb Martin, Sandy Davoren, Richard Stumpner and Licia Weber. Several new UUsers have voiced an interest in joining and/or volunteering and other UUsers typically participate in builds, fundraisers and contributing money. The task force typically meets on the first Sunday of most months, 10:15 to 11:15 a.m., but we have not met during the pandemic in-person since March 2020. Within the past year, we have had two Zoom meetings and have corresponded by email and phone to do some projects.

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 2021, we had about \$13,900 in our account.

During the 2020-21 year, the task force:

- We have raised \$13,900 over the last 2-3 years of our \$20,000 (minimum) goal to co-sponsor a Habitat home as soon as possible. The search continues for church/community co-sponsors. The Evangelical Community Church previously committed in 2020, although it is uncertain whether that still holds now. Tentative interest also has been voiced by Sherwood Oaks Christian Church, pending leadership approval. Inquiries are still being made to potential partners.
- We organized and sponsored the "In Harmony with Habitat" livestreamed online concert on May 22 (one week after submitting this report). We got five groups/singers to submit videos, including Jenn Cristy, Sylvia McNair, King Bee and the Stingers, Keaton Springfield, and a BHHS duo, plus Radical Moderates performed live from the UU sanctuary. Emcees were Rev. Bill Breeden and UUser Angela Lexmond. We used much of the \$500 Special Purposes Fund grant to award honorariums to some performers and pay the UU medial specialist. We used the Mandolin livestreaming platform. Anticipated income was at least \$2,000.
- We applied for and received a UU Special Purposes Fund Matching grant in May (approximately) for \$2,770. The program awarded the task force the entire amount of the request, which went to Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County for purchasing PPE, primarily masks, and hand sanitizer for staff and builders. Masks and sanitizer stations are still being used now on sites and at the ReStore.
- Our Social Justice moment in March 2021 featured a video talk from Barb Berggoetz about Habitat's special needs during the pandemic and plans for the Osage Place neighborhood and a video of a homeowner.
- The Habitat Women Build in 2020 occurred in the fall over an extended period of time, with the two houses completed in November. Co-leaders Barb Berggoetz and Lauren Bryant organized a team of 39 UU and other women, who raised more than \$15,000, the most of all the 14 teams. Due to the pandemic, only a limited number of volunteers could build, but about 8 did so from our team.
- We applied for the UU 25% Sunday Plate Fund again to help fund our goal of sponsoring a home. We were not nominated as a recipient this year. The committee

said the funds would not help enough people. But it should be realized that this type of assistance makes a profound impact on one family AND contributes to improving the amount of decent, affordable housing in Bloomington because the family's mortgage goes back to Habitat to pay for other homes.

- We sold handmade crafts donated by about 8 task force members and other UUsers for the online UU Holiday Bazaar in December, 2020, earning \$1,817, a new record for our bazaar sales, including some puppet sales Nedra Carlson made on her own. Task force members made cookie/soup jars, pottery, puppets, and Christmas decorations.
- We participated in Habitat's online More Than Houses event in November 2020 by sending information about Habitat to 15 UUsers and requesting contributions.
- We increased our task force membership with several new members, but they haven't participated yet.
- During 2020, several Habitat TF members helped with Hunger Task Force's food pantry at College Square. This furthers a UU initiative to create cross-currents among task forces.



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

The Help Feed Our Hungry Neighbors Task Force Annual Report

- ***Current Balance:** \$9921.24 (constantly being drained by ongoing projects*).
- * **MCUM Holiday Basket Food Drive.** (November 2020) - 25 baskets were collected
- * **Bi-Monthly Food Drives:**
Recipients: New Hope Family Shelters, Backpack Buddies (Community Kitchen), Shalom, Black Lives Matter, Area 10, MCUM, College Square Pantry
- * **IU Football Parking.** No parking due to Covid
- * **Fiber Arts Booth at Holiday Bazaar.**
(December 2020) - \$980 netted
- * **College Square Food Pantry:** Uninterrupted monthly service*
- * **Hot Breakfasts at Shalom:** Financial support for monthly breakfasts. No face to face volunteering yet*
- * **Community Kitchen Help:** two shifts per month, two volunteers per shift, face to face
- * **Support for UU Families:** with help from Ann LeDuc, we were able to distribute 9 grocery cards to needy UU families. Total to date: \$1125*
- * **Little Free Pantry:** located next to Needmore Coffee on Pete Ellis Drive. This is our latest successful project. A task force committee oversees the maintenance.*
- * **Time for Change** (September 2020): A fundraiser which netted over \$400

*** Cookbooks:**

Continuing to sell our cookbooks in the Spring Auction

*** Help Feed Our Hungry Neighbors Task Force:**

14 members on the task force - 9 active. 35 - 40 congregational volunteers.

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FUTURE PROJECTS

***Each One Feed One:** MCUM's biggest annual food drive. Help with providing drop off points and publicity

*** Future Fundraising Projects:**

- a) An online UU store, open to all task forces
- b) A yard sale at Moss Creek Court later in the summer



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 major activity of the Homelessness Taskforce, until last year, was to operate the winter shelter at Wheeler Mission on the second Saturday of each month from November 1 to March 31. (Before that, the taskforce was involved with the operation of the Interfaith Winter Shelter for several years.) Because Wheeler Mission took over the total operation of its shelter, many fewer volunteers from the churches, including UUCB, are needed to staff the shelter. This led the taskforce to get involved in other activities.

The following is a review of our current activities:

For years, the Homelessness Taskforce has worked with the Hunger Taskforce. This year, like last year, the two taskforces are working much more closely together. We supply clothing, coffee, macaroni, and spaghetti to Shalom Community Center and other agencies identified by the Hunger Taskforce every week, year-round. We even collected tents and other outdoor gear for use by homeless people who were camping out in city parks.

We continue to do this activity but have expanded the service. In January 2021, the Beacon Winter Shelter opened. And we began to also supply this winter shelter with food, clothing, and other supplies, every Friday. The servicing of Beacon Winter Shelter ended on May 6, then the shelter closed.

Since the church is closed, we placed bins near the portico entrance where congregants can leave donations. We collect the items donated every day and take them to the designated agencies for their use

When the Beacon Winter Shelter opened, the Homelessness Taskforce contributed needed items to the shelter, using taskforce funds. We purchased cold weather clothing for guests of the center, purchased space heaters for use in the shelter, and purchased gas cards for homeless individuals who lived in their cars. We worked with Sue Murphy, the Volunteer

Coordinator and Susan Dabkowski, the Director of Operations at Beacon, Inc. (formerly Shalom Community Center) on these efforts.

This year, the task force planned to focus primarily on volunteer activities for Beacon, Inc., which includes Shalom Community Center, Friend's Place and Crawford Homes. Our intent was to recruit volunteers to engage in activities such as food services (preparing meals), supervising the Shalom library, sorting clothing and other donations as well as building repair work, painting, and cleaning. (UU volunteers provide one hot breakfast a month for Shalom and its clients.) Unfortunately, because of the coronavirus epidemic, those opportunities were limited, though some people still volunteered. We are hoping that next year, as the health of the nation improves, the taskforce will be able to get much more involved in helping our homeless neighbors.

Dirk Herr-Hoyman, Marlin Howard, and Alan Backler serve on the Homelessness Taskforce. Alan serves on the Program Committee for the Shalom Community Center. Marlin volunteers at Shalom every week. Again, we are all limited by the coronavirus.

Alan is looking for someone to take his place as co-chair of the task force.



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

The Hope for Prisoners Annual Report

This past year we became very involved in opposition to the death penalty.

Over \$6,000 was raised to assist families of men and women on death row to visit. Some of those incarcerated have not seen any family in over 20 years.

In addition, this task force did the following:

- Helped to get Chad Fulks and Phillip Stroud, two men who are incarcerated in Indiana prisons in becoming members of UUCB
- Represented UUCB during each execution at Terre Haute Federal Prison both on that site and on the corner of the UUCB grounds, ringing the bell and holding up signs
- Created a Facebook page: UUCB Hope for Prisoners
- Connected with New Leaf New Life Executive Director and presented her with a check for over \$7,000 following the showing of "Sentences: From the Pen to the Page"
- Did a request for public records from the Monroe County Jail of filed grievances from

January 2021-March 2021; planning to make this a quarterly request to stay updated on issues and to drive future activity for prisoners' rights

-Requested that members of our TF make calls to prisons to protest specific issues

KAP(Kids with Absent Parents) a committee of Hope for Prisoners Task Force, chaired by Mary Goetze

Even though the KAP program stopped meeting in person in March 2020, volunteers kept in touch with the families throughout the pandemic. Most children were "adopted" by a volunteer who sent them cards and activities in the mail, had FaceTime visits or dropped off activities or gifts occasionally. Mary Goetze delivered pizzas about once a month and stayed in touch with the caregivers. As of April 2021, in person meetings resumed, starting with an outdoor gathering in a park.

Thanks to a generous donor, the children are started a climbing program on May 8, 2021 under the leadership of Tommy Gardiner, a recreational therapist. They will be meeting twice a month at Hoosier Heights through July, and after an assessment, have the option of continuing. KAP volunteers serve as monitors for the climbing and provide activities for 5 children who are too young to climb.

Fifteen children will be attending camp this summer paid for by KAP funds. With Deb Fish's assistance, two children will attend the Wild Forest Camp in June, and in July, thirteen children will go together to Camp Rancho Framasa in Brown county for 3 days.

Future plans include participating in art programs at the Eskenazi Museum of Art on the IU campus.



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

The International Outreach Task Force Annual Report

Our Task Force exists to raise funds for projects in Kenya. Every 2 years we visit the projects to see how things are going.

Our fundraising has suffered tremendously from closing the church, other venues being prohibitively expensive. Volunteers did manage to put on a yard sale of African items last Sept, which raised some \$1600, a decent sale. The Bazaar submission raised \$600, way below our usual. Given that we have been raising about \$18,000 over 2 years of work, we are woefully and perhaps fatally behind. We are hoping to do a June sale in a room at the church, but that probably won't be permitted (despite appropriate COVID precautions, of course).

Various conditions prohibit servicing a permanent website sale or using ebay-type sites, mainly having to do with the necessity for 24/7 attention or for having replicable identical

objects to sell. There is enough merchandise on hand to do a few more sales but cancelling the Kenya 2021 trip means we will run out in not too long.

Suggestions welcome, keeping in mind that we need a large room in order to sell, with minimal or no rent. We also accept tax-free contributions, of course.



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

In the year of the pandemic, it was not possible for the Just Peace Task Force (and its ally Bloomington Peace Action Coalition) to bring the issue of nuclear weapons to the attention of the Bloomington City Council. Not only was it difficult to gather in person, but City government was consumed with other issues, including policing, homelessness, and zoning. Nevertheless, the year prompted a rethink in many people's priorities, making it clear that a \$1.5 trillion program for new and more deadly nuclear weapons is not a good investment in national or global security.

2021 shows a growing national movement to address the nuclear threat. We hope to bring a resolution to the Bloomington City Council. As part of the [Back from the Brink](#) campaign, cities and towns around the nation are calling upon the President and Congress to declare that the United States will never be the first to use a nuclear weapon; to end sole Presidential authority to launch a nuclear war; to cancel destabilizing new nuclear weapons programs such as ground based nuclear missiles; and to enter global negotiations with other nuclear weapons states toward the global abolition of nuclear weapons. We hope that new members will join us in this effort.



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 underwent a leadership transition in November 2020 when Martha Foster and Earon Davis stepped aside after five years as co-chairs. We thank Martha and Earon for the initiatives and relationships they developed over their tenure and are delighted that Martha will remain active as liaison to Resilience Productions.

Martha Oakley and Ruth Aydt assumed co-chair responsibilities and have focused on ways the task force, as one part of the congregation, can truly "walk the walk" of the 8th principle. The task force met via Zoom in January and identified four major themes to guide our activities:

- 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.

In line with the first two themes, a major focus in 2021 was the Congregational Read of Isabel Wilkerson’s book *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*. Martha and Ruth joined Rev. Dave Clements, Rev. Emily Manvel Leite and Board President Stuart Yoak in planning and behind-the-scenes logistics support for the read. Many task force members were involved as facilitators and participants.

Covid-19 restrictions effectively shut down task force in-person activities over the past year. No fund-raising was done and no funds were spent.

The task force mailing list and webpages have served as the primary means of communicating information and resources. Task force members remain active with the local NAACP and Black Lives Matter organizations. Two members presented their work on Race and Criminal Justice, conducted jointly with the local NAACP, to the Indiana Supreme Court’s Commission on Race/Gender Fairness in October of 2020.

Looking forward, we plan to begin holding monthly meetings – in person, on Zoom, or in a hybrid format – sometime this summer.

As COVID health precautions permit, we will:

- Organize and/or support events with Resilience Productions.
- Take a (pandemic-delayed) trip to Lyles Station, a historic Indiana African American agricultural village, with Elizabeth Mitchell as consultant and guide. As originally planned, participants from Second Baptist Church of Bloomington, along with UU members and friends, would be invited to make this trip together. If the trip does occur, it will be limited to people who have been fully vaccinated. The task force previously received a \$500 Social Justice grant to support this trip.
- Engage in other in-person relationship-building and service activities.



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

The Rainbow Rights Task Force Annual Report

In 2021, Rainbow Rights was revived in order to document and establish the history of the task force in its various iterations for congregational awareness, and to determine the opportunities for the group moving forward. To get congregational conversations back in the broader conversation, we sponsored a discussion about the importance of pronouns and discussed the continuation of building resources for trans- rights. Though the future of gatherings is uncertain, Rainbow Rights is already planning to bolster access to LGBTQ+ resources in and around our community. A guiding principle for our current efforts is to create a space for the prism of individual perspectives and identities to form a progressive

understanding of current needs in LGBTQ+ matters and the lives of people in the community.



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

The 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 task force member monitors anti-choice *and* pro-family bills during legislative sessions and reports out to the task force with "action items" (e.g. phone calls, letters, testimony, committee watch/observation, rallies, etc.).
- Statehouse/City/County Council meetings. Face-to-face or zoom meetings with representatives and supportive presence and public comment for PPINK and All-Options PRC.
- PPINK:
 - volunteer and support clinic escorts. Escort services on hold re pandemic
 - "Snack Stewards" provide snacks/drinks to patients awaiting abortions; staff provided access to snacks during pandemic.
 - provide scrub uniform bottoms to the clinic for women in need
- All-Options PRC:
 - Promote and volunteer as peer counselors and talkline support
 - Virtual diaper drive
 - Annual Hoosier Abortion Fund drive
 - promote Practical Support Network, a project that trains volunteers to provide rides and other support to women seeking abortion access
- Maternal Advocates Resource Alliance- recruited volunteers for training in UU community postpartum support; support trainees' creation of a UU action plan
- Monitor the implementation and work of the state's Maternal Mortality Review Committee, mandated by 2018's Public Law 48.

Education & Outreach

- Activities curtailed with the pandemic

Fundraising/Donations

- Football parking - suspended re pandemic
- February Siding With Love bake sale - suspended re pandemic
- Hoosier Abortion Fund - donation of \$400 from the task force brought our UU team total to \$2061, from the congregation and friends of UU donations. As of this writing, the event is still ongoing.
- Annual UUCB grant to the task force for Snack Stewards - \$400 for food and beverages.
- All Options (AO) Diaper Program - donation of \$400 from the task force and open donations by the congregation and friends to the AO diaper website.

- Donation - \$400 to Planned Parenthood of Bloomington



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

RISE sponsored a book study of the book, *Refugee* by Alan Gratz. We purchased several copies of the book and distributed them to Susan Yeley, Lisa Meuser, Jane Silva, Diane Legomsky and me. We met on Zoom to discuss the book. Lisa Meuser led the discussion. It clearly gave all of us a taste of what it would be like to be forced to leave your home due to conflict or threat of genocide, then take a dangerous journey to escape and then end up some place where you had to start your life over with very few resources and feeling alone and alienated. We invited the religious education program at UU to invite the middle school to read this book together. It is written for young adults. The members who read the book were encouraged to pass this book on to others in our community. Susan Yeley wants to read it with her daughter and then she will give it to someone else.

During the holidays Daniel Soto who is from Costa Rica and is very connected to the Hispanic community in Bloomington asked us to provide gifts for three refugee families who are struggling. Our members were very generous and several members took the name of a child and purchased an outfit and a toy for each of the 10 children. The families were grateful, and I was able to meet them when they picked up the gifts at my house. Besides the gifts from members we contributed a Kroger \$50 gift card to each family.

In March we had a Zoom meeting for all of our RISE members. We introduced them to two families who are undocumented refugees in Bloomington - two from Mexico and a couple from China who are Uyghurs who are experiencing atrocious acts of genocide. The husband spoke

from Turkey and the wife from here in Bloomington where she receives wonderful support from two of our RISE members.

I have been active in the Immigration Justice Task Force that is chaired by Christie Popp, a Bloomington immigration lawyer and Jane Walter. We have a sub committee that is trying to figure out how to reach people who are not really for or against immigrants, but non-committal which makes up about 40% of our population. We'd like to demonstrate what an asset these folks are to our community and our country. This committee is also looking at ways to help the refugees feel welcome in our community. And, finally, this organization is working with other churches to see if there is a possibility of sponsoring an asylum seeker. People who entered our country at the Mexican border and were put in detention centers only need a sponsor to allow them to be released and to be sent to a community where they could start the process of becoming citizens.

We are following Biden's initiatives closely. He is reuniting families who were separated and trying to repair and rebuild our immigration laws and processes. Once this is accomplished, we will be seeing an increase of immigrants. At this point hopefully we will have a large influx of immigrants to Indiana and through the work of Exodus in Indianapolis we're anticipating some people being brought to Indiana.

We are also very supportive of the work that the Refugee Support Network (formerly Bloomington Refugee Support Network) is doing. Last year we proposed that 25% of our Sunday morning plate be awarded to this organization, and they actually were designated as the recipient for this year. Unfortunately, their board was reorganizing and the remaining officers didn't think they were in a position to accept the money. Now they have a very stable board. The new president is Elizabeth Dunn who teaches in the Geography Department at I.U. and her speciality is the study of displaced persons. We decided that because of the pandemic and the squelching by Trump of bringing more immigrants to the U.S. during his presidency, we decided to wait until next year to reapply for these funds to support refugees. We anticipate that the funds will be greatly needed in 2022 when there is sure to be an influx of refugees.

Several people have recommended books and videos that are helpful in understanding the plight of refugees. I will distribute this list to our task force in order to help educate ourselves and gain even more compassion and understanding of refugees' needs and how we can support them. We also try to share information about current legislation and encourage people to contact their members of Congress. Recently I invited people to speak out for congress people to support the US Citizenship Act of 2021.

Elizabeth Dunn was featured in the October/November 2020 issue of Bloom Magazine. She shares her passion of working with refugees. She said that it would be a good move for Bloomington to accept refugees for many reasons. Economically, they are a good source of labor, and many are entrepreneurs. They are also consumers. It's also a big gain culturally, bringing people with different languages, music and art. "Helping refugees is, of course, a humanitarian act. By helping people fleeing war and violence, we give them and their children a chance at a normal, safe and productive life. It's the morally right thing to do," says Elizabeth.

Social Justice Funds Committee (SJFC) - 202-2021 Annual Report

In October 2020 SJFC sought grant applications for funding consideration by the church's SJ grants fund. The following grants were recommended to and approved by Special Purposes Fund Committee:

Extension of Habitat grant from 2019 until Nov. 30, 2021

Extension of Racial Justice Task Force grant to support tour of Lyles Station to Nov. 30, 2021.

Grant to Reproductive Justice Task Force to support snack stewards program at Planned Parenthood.

Grant to Team First Books Monroe County to give grants to schools for books for low income children.

Spring 25% Plate Fund Campaign

In March 2021 SJFC sought nominations for non-profit agencies to be the recipient of 25% of undesignated Sunday Plate funds for July 2021-June 2022.

New Hope for Families to support The Nest (childcare)

Nurse Family Partnerships

Friends of Monroe County Public Library to supplement the Coretta Scott King Exhibit

SJFC selected the three agencies on the above list to present to the congregation for a vote at the June 13, 2021 congregational meeting. SJFC is using multiple virtual avenues to educate the congregation about these agencies throughout May.

SJFC Members: Steve Mascari, Denise Ogren, Jay Sissom, Sarah Kopper, Anna Beaucamp,

Advisor: Jackie Hall and Rev. Bill Breeden

Sunday Social Justice Film Series Annual Report

Program suspended due to pandemic