

Social Justice Action

The Little Book of Race and Restorative Justice by Fania Davis: "Challenge yourself to be a healer and activist for justice. Don't feel you have to choose one or the other. Be both. See activism as a form of social healing and interpersonal healing as a form of social justice. Transform and heal yourself as you transform and heal the world."

UUCSW Service Project

Meal Packaging – taking a break for the summer.

Motion approved by the Annual Meeting this last Sunday. Please talk with the Board (Kim) or with me about your interest in this.

"A motion to formulate a Racial Justice Committee. The purpose of this committee is to increase awareness, coordination and advocacy both in the Congregation and in the wider community. This would be a specific dedicated committee, separate from but overlapping with the Social Justice Committee. Committee members and leaders should indicate interest to the Board."

If you Google "Professional Hairstyles" and "Unprofessional Hairstyles", here's what you get. An example of the underlying racism in society. This isn't Google's fault; they're just reporting on what's out there.



Views from the Rotary

Your editor has been spending a couple hours a day at the Rotary – holding a BLM sign. While doing this, I have made some new (young) friends and I asked them to tell what they have learned. Here are their responses – unedited by me. I am honored to be associated with the energy, enthusiasm and passion shown by them.

Notes from the gal in the straw hat - Christa

Over the past two weeks I have spent a number of hours in the rotary, holding a cursory list of the names of Black Americans who have lost their lives to systemic violence, including at the hands of police. The response from the town has been mixed, with a large number of vocal supporters, who regularly honk, wave, and yell words of support at myself and the other protesters. Though I expected some negativity (even through my rose-colored glasses), I have been truly disturbed by some of the vitriol coming from dissenters, for they are often loud - however few. The deadly virus of racist violence and white supremacy has spread and threatens the lives and wellbeing of our Black brothers and sisters. We must stand together in support of this righteous cause - as we cannot undo the harm done to the families of George, and Breonna, and Ahmaud, and Atatiana, and Trayvon, and Tamir, and.....

My heart breaks for those who have been crushed by these deadly and oppressive forces for so many generations, and who are just now being seen, heard, and believed.

The biggest takeaway I have is: many of us are becoming more informed and also energized, and that is an incredible thing, because we have much work to do. The need for continued anti-racist education for each and every one of us is imperative to our community, and the world at large. We must continue to listen and learn, to lean into the discomfort of conversations we have until now been hesitant to have. We can and will conquer this evil together - but we must be steadfast in our resolve to put in place anti-racist policies, call out racism in our families, workplaces, and social gatherings when it occurs, and stand in solidarity with those who have lost loved ones to this senseless violence.

"We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history, there "is" such a thing as being too late. This is no time for apathy or complacency. This is a time for vigorous and positive action."- MLK.

Gianna: What I've learned from the rotary:

A lot of people are neutral towards the situation. To me that means they either aren't properly educated/informed on the situation and therefore feel no need to participate, or the problem isn't affecting them directly so they just simply don't care.

Majority of people give a positive reaction. Whether it's a wave, a honk or a thumbs up, majority of people that drive by give some sort of positive reinforcement. To me that means they agree with the movement and maybe want to even get involved. I feel like some people do want to get involved but don't know how. Or they don't have enough information.

Here and there I have seen new people at the rotary. This gives me hope that the message is really spreading towards people. I've seen a father and son, high schoolers, people by themselves or a group of friends. It's a great way to see the community come together.

Everyone I have seen so far is a different age, comes from a different generation, has a different lifestyle but we all have one common goal and that's to have our voices heard.

Then there are the negative responses. Some is a simple shake of the head or a thumbs down. Some people are angry. The angry responses are the ones that confuse me the most because I don't see the need for foul gestures or profanities. I would love to talk to these people and hear them out. I want to know where that anger is coming from or why they are so offended.

The last thing I've observed at the rotary is I get a better response when other people are around. A larger group of people gets more attention. When I'm there alone it seems to be an overall neutral reaction; maybe some waves here and there and a few beeps. When more people are there, we get more reactions whether they are good or bad.