Anti-Racism Committee Meeting Summary
October 24, 2022
Submitted by Nancy Richman

Etta read the beautiful and moving poem by Sherri Rubin, "*Writing about Safety*," capturing the author's fears about the rise of anti-Semitism in this country today. The poem begins:

> *I must pretend I'm safe,*
> *otherwise, the fear within and outside*
> *would cripple me.*
> *I must pretend I'm not hated*
> *or microdose that reality,*
> *otherwise, I will shut down,*
> *stop wondering about you,*
> *see you as enemy,*
> *and add more hate to your cauldron*
> *by hating you.*

The attendees then shared personal reflections about the poem, reactions to the 3-part PBS series by Ken Burns, "U.S. and the Holocaust", fears about the country edging toward authoritarianism, fears about the rise of hate, fears about the local police – whose side will they be on if it comes to defending our democracy? As one member noted: "there are so many truly scary scenarios for people or groups to inflict harm upon 'the other'. I think it is now clearer to me that we are 'on alert', paying deep attention to all of the issues, and looking for ways to study AND take action to support as many as possible of the isolated, mistreated, or actively threatened groups."

Ideas that emerged from the discussion:

1. Organize and invite faith-based and other diverse organizations, to an event, called: "Ask Me Anything." At this event, participants wear a nametag listing one or two characteristics of their identify, (race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, ethnicity, age, class… (e.g., "*I'm Nancy, I'm Jewish. Ask Me Anything*").
2. Organize, with other faith-based congregations, a "Stop Hate" campaign.
3. Invite someone known to Barbara Holtzman to facilitate a workshop for UUCSC and other faith-based organizations on the intersectionality of colonialism, classism, patriarchy, racism (including anti-Semitism) …

A subgroup will meet to discuss how to organize the above and will report back at the next meeting.

This week, Nancy will order the nine books by Clyde Ford, Of Blood and Sweat, that are in circulation within the Ocean State system. After several people have read the book, we'll plan the logistics of the book's discussion.

The AR meetings will continue to be held on the second and fourth Mondays of the month, from 7:00-8:15pm. All are welcome - please join us!

Next Meeting: Monday November 14, 2022