

A Relationship with Tomaquag Museum, Narragansetts and UUCSC

In cooperation with the Anti-Racist Group, Racial Justice Committee and the Social Justice Team

It is our understanding and acceptance of the principles of racial justice that we can not and should not participate in actions solely as a white community. Instead we must work with others in community who are impacted by discrimination and historical oppression. In our South County region of Rhode Island we have a relationship with the Tomaquag Museum, a non-profit organized in 1952 by members and leaders of the Narragansett Nation.

Historically members of our congregation have participated in the Museum activities and Loren Spears, Executive Director has visited our congregation and presented in Sermons, Religious Education and special events. Our recent advocacy for the Museum with the UUA GA2020 resulted in contributions of \$93,000 from UU members across the country. This has provided sorely needed funds to prepare for reopening in phase 3 of the pandemic and to develop a plan for an expansive future exhibit area in a new building that is underway.

The Museum has multiple programs that we might be able to support.. It is my intention to discuss ways in which we can match volunteers in our congregation in one on one opportunities, assist in research and writing with Loren for their website and increase their catalog of exhibit files.

Mission: "The mission of the Tomaquag Museum is to educate the public and promote thoughtful dialogue regarding indigeneous history, culture, arts, Mother Earth and connections to native issues of today."

Indegenous Employment Program - Individuals in the community are matched with Native Americans who are seeking to explore areas of interest for future employment. The Museum seeks partners in business, arts, medicine, technology and contractors. This one to one match is possible as we find our way out of Covid.

The RIDot study of traffic stops in Rhode Island by town includes some noteworthy numbers of racial profiling in our local communities. Loren suggests that we write a piece on this issue which would be edited and co-authored with her for publication on their blog on the Tomaquag Museum website.

Another significant issue the Narragansetts face is limited access to the ocean and water rights. This covers ALL the shore towns, South Kingstown, Narragansett, Charlestown and Westerly. This is a complex issue involving so many other communities but this may be another shared blog post with one of our environmentalist's and Loren.

Loren would like volunteers to assist her programs with curriculum expansion, identify inventory and aids to expand their cataloging of exhibit items and write short native book reviews for the website. Detail and discussion of these areas can be explored with Loren.

Loren has offered to present to our Anti-racist zoom group on social justice issues of concern to Narragansett's. (By the way, there are only 3000 people that identify as Narragansett). This would be a great opportunity for us to hear her speak on the issues we care so much about.

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