Anti-Racism Committee Meeting Summary
February 13, 2023
Submitted by Nancy Richman

Mission: Learn, Educate, Advocate

Reading: Third Verse of the Star-Spangled Banner (Francis Scott Key)

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore,
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion
A home and a Country should leave us no more?
Their blood has washed out their foul footstep's pollution.

No refuge could save the hireling and slave
From the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave.

And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

We discussed the question – are lines 4-6 racist? Interesting article on this question can be found here: The Third Verse of "The Star Spangled Banner" - Soapboxie

Discussion: *Who Are We – A Chronicle of Racism in America*, A film created and narrated by Jeffrey Robinson

Some key points:

1. The film illustrates the role Black people played, directly and indirectly, in creating American institutions of power and wealth for white people, while never allowed full participation in them.
2. Trace the history of almost any major American institution of power and wealth, and you'll find it was created by Black Americans or created to control them: agriculture, law enforcement, finance, legal system, financial services, banking & mortgages…
3. The film illustrates how the country is based on violence against those considered less than. There is very much a caste system in this country.
4. We need to "show up" to make a difference.
    a. Equity Audit is being discussed at the upcoming SK School Committee meetings.

The film will be shown on Sunday March 12 at 4:00pm at the SK High School.
Discussion to follow.

Next meeting, February 27, 2023
Part of the February 27 meeting will focus on the UU 8th Principle.