

## Journey Well – Social Justice Team Notes – August 14, 2025

Greetings,

As we're daily confronted by governmental corruption, institutionalized hatred, and obsessive greed, it's easy to believe our nation will never recover its sanity and kindness. However, encouraging signs are appearing, in the midst of horrible suffering, injustice, and tragedy. For instance:

- Violent crime\* dropped to 30-year low (even in D.C.)
- Prisons are closing
- ICE can't hire enough thugs
- Morale among federal law enforcement officers is down
- Legislators hear angry feedback at town hall meetings
- Protests (Indivisible, *et al*) attract record numbers
- MAGA:
  - Demands the Epstein files
  - Can't get along with each other
  - Are questioning policies that used to seem like good ideas

\* One exception...

Stay tuned!

### Upcoming Events :

<https://www.frederickallenlodge.org/events/social-justice-social-hour-3agzn-429p6-4nfrt-332mk-3cf95-8g5d9-cjaf3-emhcn-x2w8h-bcw56-kns5m-eh4c4-8rmd4-5jyl3-p3s9m-s5rpe-5mrea>

### Saratoga Pride –

[https://www.instagram.com/p/DMsJMLEgPka/?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_button\\_share\\_sheet](https://www.instagram.com/p/DMsJMLEgPka/?utm_source=ig_web_button_share_sheet)

[https://www.instagram.com/saratoga\\_pride/p/DLilAMcJXiM/](https://www.instagram.com/saratoga_pride/p/DLilAMcJXiM/)

**Saratoga Immigration Coalition** – <https://mailchi.mp/b708a7c5ec39/saratoga-immigration-coalition-news?e=d9bc29cc1a>

## Saratoga Peace Week

Our friends at the Presbyterian United Church of Christ are planning a full slate of events during Peace Week 2025: September 21 – 27. Highlights include:

- Albany Gay Men's Chorus concert
- A film, *Peace by Chocolate*  
<https://www.thechocolateprofessor.com/blog/peace-by-chocolate>
- **Civility Puppets** (Marigold and friends) may join the festivities, presenting their new *It's Cool to be Kind* show.

## Film & Discussion

A while ago, we received a short (20 min.) film entitled: *My Father's Name* about a woman who discovered that her father took part in a lynching. The film (Trailer: <https://myfathersname.com/>) and discussion guide are available, if there's congregational interest and availability. Look for the flyer and sign-up sheet in the sanctuary this Sunday.

## Suicide Prevention March September 28, 2025

- Link: <https://afspwalks.donordrive.com/RITA>
- Look for flyer & sign up sheet

Cheers,

*Mark Long*

*In this world, there isn't as much humanity as one would like, but there's enough.*  
– James Baldwin