

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice in the National Capital Region

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From the Executive Director

Welcome to our E-News using our new logo and banner in a new, sleeker format! This is a transitional newsletter using our old template within the new. We will be transitioning over the next few months. UUSJ has been upgrading our on-line capabilities to enhance our communication capabilities in terms of ease, outreach, and efficiency. Our www.uusj.org website has been redesigned. Please take a look and give us your comments. Thank you for your patience during the transition. We are excited and hope you will begin seeing the difference.

Please take note of the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington, with a gathering at All Souls Friday evening, Aug. 23 and then a rally the following day. (Under "Anti-Racism and Multiculturalism" below.) This is a chance for UUs to come out strong with others in honor of that March and to continue the work of it. We often do not take time to celebrate real victories, and this is a time for that and for rededication, both. Don't miss it.

And please be aware that the deadline for your nominations for our social justice awards is Sept. 6. We apologize for the technical difficulties with the online form. These have now been fixed. These awards offer a chance to honor and celebrate the outstanding justice people in your congregation. Way too often people give and give from their hearts to good work and never receive recognition for their efforts. No one, of course, does any of this for recognition, but at the same time it is a wonderful, inspiring, revivifying activity for all involved. Get those nominations in.

UUSJ is changing. It is so good to have you with us as we try to meet the needs of these times.

Rev. Dr. Terence H. Ellen

Executive Director

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice in the National Capital Region

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Unitarian Universalism

❖ *6th Annual Social Justice Awards Nominations Open*

Deadline September 6 12:00noon

To celebrate the accomplishments of those working for social justice, Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (UUSJ) of the National Capital Region invites nominations for its 6th Annual Social Justice Awards. The awards recognize those who inspire, support and express effective social action – those deeply committed volunteers who are the heart of the social justice movement in the National Capital region.

To make a nomination for an award, use the online form. Nominations must be received no later than noon Friday, September 6, 2013. Find the nomination form here <http://uusj.net/wp/2013-gala-awards-nominations/> or contact the administrator for more information CSnavely@uuma.org. Individuals and groups selected for their social action contributions will be presented awards at the UUSJ Annual Social Justice Gala on Sunday night, October 20, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. at Positano's Ristorante Italiano, 4968 Fairmont Avenue, Bethesda, MD. Winners will be notified by September 12.

❖ *Apply for a UUSJ Collaboration Grant*

Does your congregation have a social justice program that could use a funding boost? Would a UUSJ Collaboration Grant be a possibility? Find an application [UUSJ Collaborative Fund Request Form](#)

❖ *Submit Congregational Study Action Proposals*

Proposals are due October 1

Less than a year from now, delegates at the 2014 General Assembly in Providence, RI, will select a new [Congregational Study/Action Issue](#), which will become a social justice priority for staff and congregations for the next four years. Congregations and districts like yours propose these CSAI topics, so get writing! Draft a CSAI proposal about a major social issue that is on the mind of your congregation or district. The issue must be worthy of prolonged study and action. Questions? Consult the [Proposer's Guide](#) at UUA.org/csw

❖ *Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Resources*

Visit www.uua.org/justice for worship resources, action campaigns, educational materials and more!

❖ *UU Social Justice Calendar for 2013 - 2014*

Plan your social justice calendar for the year. Whatever issue your congregation's social justice ministry is focusing on, you can join in collective national advocacy with the UUA, Standing on the Side of Love, UU social justice organizations, other UU congregations, and community and national partners! As we get closer to the dates, go to www.uua.org/justice for worship resources, action campaigns, educational materials and more! Download the [PDF](#) or customizable Word [doc](#).

Anti-Racism/Multiculturalism

❖ *50th Anniversary March on Washington-UUs Realizing the Dream*

Saturday, August 24 10:00am
Lincoln Memorial Washington, DC

Friday, August 23
All Souls Church, Unitarian
1500 Harvard St. NW
Washington, DC

See details at [All Souls Church, Unitarian](#)

[March on Washington Flyer](#)

Friday, August 23, 6:30-8:30pm
Dinner, Stories, and Music at All Souls Church
Fun and exciting pizza dinner with protest sign making, singing, and stories from UUs who were at the 1963 March. To know how much food to provide, we ask that you RSVP to Jan Smart (smartjuanita@mac.com; put "MLK March" in the subject line). \$5 donation requested to cover food costs.

Saturday, August 24, 10:00am
Unitarian Universalist contingent at 50th Anniversary March
We will meet on the National Mall at the middle of the north side of the Reflecting Pool. Look for the Standing on the Side of Love banner. Come early (8:00 am) for pre-rally festivities. At 12:00 noon, we'll start marching to the MLK Jr. Memorial. A celebration will take place in the field past the MLK Jr. Memorial after the march.

Sunday, August 25, 10:15am
Worship and Reception at All Souls
Please join us for our special Sunday morning worship service, with reception to follow.

All Souls is a 10-minute walk from the Columbia Heights Metro stop and reachable by bus.
See www.wmata.com for info.

For more info or to volunteer, please contact Craig Dylan Wyatt (cdw@rockrivertree.com; [202.425.4563](tel:202.425.4563))

Click on the link below for a schedule of events for the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the 1963 March on Washington and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. <http://officialmlkdream50.com/#np-975>
Here is a program from the 1963 march [mow1963](#)

❖ *9/11 Unity Walk 2013*

Sunday, September 8 1:00pm-5:00pm
Washington Hebrew Congregation
3935 Macomb St NW
Washington, DC 20016

The 9/11 Unity Walk brings together people of all ages, backgrounds and faiths to learn to respect each other through experiential education, compassionate leadership and intentional service. Take a step toward changing the world! Visit open houses of worship, from the Synagogue where the Walk starts, to the Sikh Gurdwara

where they serve a traditional meal, to the Orthodox and other Christian churches, a Buddhist Temple, the Mosque and Gandhi Memorial. Performing groups include Mosaic Harmony Choir (representing 26 different faiths), a multi-faith band HinJew, and the DC Youth Poetry Slam Team! Charitable activities include a shoe drive, bagging fresh produce, and assembling trail mix to send to the homeless in our community.

We will also be handmaking cards for Nelson Mandela during registration as well as shooting a video tribute.

FOR THE SHOE DRIVE PLEASE BRING NEW OR GENTLY USED SHOES FOR ALL AGES.

To RSVP [click here](#) Attendance is FREE and Open to the Public!

❖ *Celebration of the Life of Quaker Bayard Rustin*

Date: Sunday, August 25

2:00pm -- Quaker-style worship

3:00pm -- Light refreshments

3:30pm -- "Brother Outsider" film & panel discussion

Friends Meeting of Washington

2111 Florida Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20008

Sponsored by Friends Meeting of Washington Peace & Social Concerns Committee of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in honor of the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington. Join the Friends Meeting of Washington's Peace & Social Concerns Committee in a Quaker Style Worship Service honoring Bayard Rustin, architect of the 1963 March on Washington, and a panel discussion on the documentary film, "Brother Outsider".

Featuring Speakers: filmmaker Bennett Singer,

Mandy Carter (National Coordinator of the Bayard Rustin 2013

Commemoration Project for the National Black Justice Coalition),

and David McReynolds (War Resisters League)

For more information, contact Stephen McNeil,

American Friends Service Committee: smcneil@afsc.org or [415-350-9305](tel:415-350-9305)

Economic Justice

❖ *The UUA & UUSC Have Launched a Joint Campaign for Raising the Minimum Wage*

See the [Joint Statement](#) from UUA President Rev. Peter Morales and UUSC President Rev. Bill Schulz 'Raising the Minimum Wage--A Moral Imperative.' Please [add your name](#) to join our advocacy for low-wage workers and their families.

We are partnering with Interfaith Worker Justice and the Restaurant Opportunities Center (ROC) United to support the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2013, which would make the following vital advances:

Raise the minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour by 2015

Index the minimum wage to inflation

Anchor the minimum wage for tipped employees-currently an abominable \$2.13 an hour-to 70 percent of the regular minimum wage

Three and a half million people of color would be lifted out of poverty if Congress raised the minimum wage to \$10.10. They would be the majority of the six million people overall who would be lifted out of poverty, according to a new report from the restaurant workers' group ROC United.

Learn more at the UUSC's [Behind the Kitchen Door campaign](#): Change the National Conversation about Restaurant Workers!

Plan a [Labor in the Pulpits Worship Service](#) for this Labor Day Weekend with Interfaith Worker Justice Guide.

Education

❖ *Is Education a Moral Imperative?*

Wednesday, September 11 7:00pm-9:00pm

Oxon Hill Library

6200 Oxon Hill Rd Oxon Hill, MD 20745

If education is a moral imperative, why are so many African-American students dropping out of public schools? What can parents, educators and policy makers do to support our youth? Presenters are from religious, governmental and educational institutions. There will be time for community comments. Contact Khalil Shadeed at mindlaw100@gmail.com

Environmental Concern

❖ *Bidder 70*

Friday, September 6 7:00pm

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville

For a map and directions - www.uucr.org/directions.php

Bidder 70 is a 72 minute documentary film that centers on an extraordinary, ingenious and effective act of civil disobedience demanding government and industry accountability. In 2008, University of Utah economics student Tim DeChristopher committed an act which would some believe will redefine patriotism in our time, igniting a spirit of civil disobedience in the name of climate justice. A Unitarian Universalist, Tim DeChristopher, effectively derailed a widely protested federal oil and gas land sale in 2008. This University of Utah environmentalist bid 1.2 million dollars, he didn't have, to save thousands of pristine acres of land surrounding U.S National Parks. Come join us to watch this documentary of young people fed up with corporate control of their government, the story of the power of individual choices and their consequences. Bring your own brown bag dinner. Coffee and tea provided. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. FREE!

Questions? chbisnett@gmail.com

❖ *Interfaith Youth for Climate Justice Seeks Program Associate*

Deadline to Apply: August 30

IYCJ' purpose is to inspire and equip high school youth of faith to take action for climate justice in their families, communities, and congregations so that our society will become increasingly sustainable and just for all people. Through a year-long program, IYCJ creates a diverse, interfaith learning community in which teens, connect with nature, explore the environmental teachings of their faith, examine environmental and social issues related to climate change, and engage in action project. Details on job description and how to apply are here <http://iycj.org/seeking-program-associate/>

❖ *Watch “Chasing Ice” and Learn the Story of Climate Change from the Glaciers*

Tuesday, August 20 6:30-8:30pm
 Old Presbyterian Meeting House
 323 S. Fairfax St. (between Duke & Wolfe Streets)
 Alexandria, VA

"Chasing Ice is the story of one man's mission to change the tide of history by gathering undeniable evidence of climate change. Using time-lapse cameras, his videos compress years into seconds and capture ancient mountains of ice in motion as they disappear at a breathtaking rate."

([Chasing Ice Website](#)) Watch the trailer [here](#) Join our friends at Old Presbyterian Meeting House and at the Chesapeake Climate Action Network to watch this visually stunning film! After the film, we'll learn about the climate impacts that our area is already facing, and how we can work together to take action.

Directions: A 20-minute walk from the King Street Metro (Yellow line), or take the FREE King Street Trolley to Royal Street, walk 1 more block East along King and turn RIGHT onto S. Fairfax St., walk 3 blocks SOUTH to see Old Pres on your right at 321 South Fairfax St. **Parking Lot:** 413 South Royal St. (between Wolfe and Wilkes)

❖ *Friends of the Earth Middle East Program*

Saturday, October 5 12:30pm
 Congregation Beth El of Montgomery County
<http://www.bethelmc.org> for address and directions

The Green Tikkun (Environmental Repair) Committee of Congregation Beth El of Montgomery County is thrilled to host FoEME's Israeli, Palestinian, and Jordanian directors. All are welcome to join us for the program. The directors will make brief introductions at Shabbat services in our Main Sanctuary and in our Worship & Study Minyan. After Kiddush (the reception which follows Shabbat services), the 3 directors will give a presentation in our Chapel, highlighting their cooperative efforts to clean up the lower Jordan River, and other environmental projects. Their work should provide hope for all about both the peace process and environmental progress. Any questions? Please contact Michele Lieban Levine [http://MLL_BL@hotmail.com](mailto:MLL_BL@hotmail.com)

❖ *Taking GA Interfaith Action Home: Tell the EPA We Need Energy for Change!*

Thousands of UUs gathered at an interfaith rally in Louisville for our public witness action at GA – Energy for Change: Interfaith Action for Clean Energy and Healthy Communities. UU activist Tim DeChristopher, Wendell Berry, KY & WV UU ministers, KY Interfaith Power & Light leaders, community activists and others, challenged us to pledge to take our actions home. They called us to partner with the EPA for clean energy, healthy communities, and a just transition for those whose livelihoods depend on fossil fuel extraction. We need strong limits on greenhouse gas pollution and immediate action to address climate change.

[Please sign on to our letter to Gina McCarthy, incoming Director of the EPA](#), asking her to support a just transition away from fossil fuel extraction!

Learn about where your community's energy comes from and what you can do at www.standingonthesideoflove.org/environmentaljustice/.

To see short video of the GA interfaith action go to: ['On banks of Ohio River, UUs rally for clean energy'](#).

❖ *Building a UU Young Adult Network to Work on Climate Change Issues*

Over 200 UU young adults who care about climate justice have come together from all over the United States and Canada to form a network. The members connect Unitarian Universalist faith to the work for justice for the web of all existence. The focus for the group is on creating ethical living systems - inter-generationally, internationally, among communities, among species, among ecosystems and with Earth. UU Ministry for Earth began forming this network with the leadership of Jennifer Nordstrom, our Young Adult Intern.

To join the Network, search Facebook for "UU Young Adults for Climate Justice" or email uuyacj@gmail.com.

To Support the Network

UU Young Adults for Climate Justice is funded by donations from the members of UU Ministry for Earth and in part by grants from the Fund for Unitarian Universalism and the Cedar Tree Foundation. Your continued support is needed as we reach out to more concerned and creative young adult leaders. Just click on the Contribute button below and choose the Young Adult Sponsor link. Enter your donation amount to the work of the UUYACJ.

The network has already participated in several regional events, including a climate justice workshop in Berkeley, CA, the fUUel Conference for Young Adults in Vancouver, B.C. and UU Young Adult Climate Justice Training with the Central Mid-West District Young Adult Steering Committee in Chicago.

Upcoming event

PowerShift 2013: October 18-21 in Pittsburg, PA will focus on divesting from fossil fuels, fracking, and stopping Keystone XL. A group of UU young adults are planning to attend.

-- To join the group: email uuyacj@gmail.com

-- [Conference info](#)

mail uuyacj@gmail.com.

❖ *UU-United Nations Office is Developing Climate Action Teams*

The Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (UU-UNO) Climate Change Initiative recently announced the development of Climate Action Teams (CATs), which are groups dedicated to raising awareness about and acting against climate change within your congregation and community. The Climate Action Team (CAT) Program is already off to a good start as congregations across the UU community are expressing interest in forming a CAT. If you are interested in establishing a CAT in your congregation, please click on each of the links below to view material about registration, next steps, and more.

[1. CAT First Steps](#)

[2. CAT Overall Goals and Actions](#)

[3. CAT Online Instructions and Recommendations](#)

[4. CAT Strategic Plan Form](#)

[5. Letter to CATs about the UU-UNO 2014 Intergenerational Spring Seminar](#)

[6. Spring Seminar 2014 Save the Date](#)

And if you haven't yet viewed the CAT Pamphlet: [CLICK HERE](#)

For further information about CATs and how you can incorporate one into your congregation please contact the UU-UNO at unitednations@uua.org.

❖ *UU Listserve on Divesting from Fossil Fuels Set Up*

I have created a Yahoo group for those who wish to discuss divestment from fossil fuels in UU congregations. Please send me an email if you wish to join the uudevment group, and tell me your congregation and your activity within it. Also, you may wish to see <http://www.uumilwaukee.org/content/fossil-fuels-divestment-resolution>, to see what the Board at one church recently passed.

Thank you,

Terry Wiggins (terryw@kcnet.com)

First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee

Immigration

❖ *Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations (VACOLAO)'s Legislative Strategy Conference*

Monday, August 26 8:30am-4:00pm

Founders Hall - George Mason University School of Law 3301 Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22201

COST: \$ 25.00. Scholarships available. Please contact vacolao@gmail.com

For registration, please CLICK HERE<<https://www.cmpinc.net/latinoconference/registration.aspx>>

or visit: www.vacolao.org<<http://www.vacolao.org>>

VACOLAO is excited to announce its "Latino Legislative Strategy Conference" where members of the Latino community and its allies will gather to learn and debate about VACOLAO's legislative priorities for the upcoming 2014 Virginia General Assembly Session as well as issues relevant to Latinos living and working in Virginia. Some of the issues that will be addressed are included below:

- * The implementation of Affordable Care Act in Virginia and its implications for the Latino community including Medicaid expansion in Virginia
- * Immigration Reform: its potential ramifications for the Latino Community and how Virginia's Latinos have been organizing for reform.
- * Immigrant workers access to drivers licenses in Virginia, regardless of their legal status
- * In-state tuition for immigrant children (Virginia DREAM Act)
- * Combating notary fraud with state legislation
- * Virginia Latino voting protection

The results of this convention will be presented at the IV Virginia Immigrant Advocates Summit<<http://virginiaimmigrantadvocatessummit.wordpress.com/>> this fall.

❖ *Borrow Immigration Films from UUSJ*

UUSJ has purchased the films [Which Way Home](#) and [Welcome to Shelbyville](#). Contact info@uusj.org or call 202-600-9132 to arrange to borrow either for a showing in your congregation.

❖ *Virginia Immigrant Statistics by Congressional District*

The Commonwealth Institute has released a series of excellent infographics with key information about Virginia's immigrants, broken down by Congressional district. Follow the link below

<http://www.thecommonwealthinstitute.org/2013/04/25/the-facts-on-virginias-immigrant-communities/>

❖ *American Immigration Lawyers Association's Take on the House Version of Immigration Reform*

[AILA on Immigration Reform](#)

❖ *Immigration Information from the UUA*

New Resources: The UUA is pleased to announce that there are new resources available to help congregations engage with immigration justice work.

[United States Immigration: Theological Reflection and Discussion](#) is a collection of 22 brief excerpts from sermons and writings about the topic of immigration offered for Unitarian Universalist congregations. Each excerpt is followed by questions for discussion. [Download](#) a copy of the resource, and or/find out more about it by listening to reflection authors Susan Karlson, Michael Tino and Colin Bossen on [The Journey Toward Phoenix](#), an internet-based radio blog hosted by Rev. Carlton Elliot Smith of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, VA. [The Doctrine of Discovery: The True Story of Colonizing the Americas](#), a video to accompany the Doctrine of Discovery [discussion guide](#).

Join the conversation on [Cooking Together: Recipes for Immigration Justice Work](#) blog.

See www.uua.org/immigration for resources, congregational stories, policy information and more!

LGBTQ

❖ *Workshop for Transgender Allies of Faith*

Sunday, September 15 Frederick, MD

Equality Maryland, in partnership with faith leaders in Frederick county will be hosting a free workshop to help faith communities feel more equipped and confident in being transgender allies and advocates. This program will focus on helping you and your congregation be more effective transgender allies. It is designed to meet individuals where they are and empower them to go back to their faith communities with new tools as we journey towards transgender equality.

The training is [September 15, 3-6pm in Frederick at Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ](#) (15 W. Church St. Frederick, MD, 21701). [Click here to RSVP](#).

Click [here](#) to download the Frederick flyer.

❖ *Interweave Connect August Newsletter*

The Catholic pope says he can't judge Gays. Wow, we have come a long way from when I was a child growing up in the Catholic Church. Maybe if we keep up the work Interweave Continental is doing we will see a safe world for GLBTQ people.

This August issue is focusing on GLBTQ people coming out. Enjoy!! I hope it is helpful.

September's issue each year is focusing on GLBTQ Youth. Please send me articles about the youth in your congregation or have them write an article for the September Interweave Connect Issue.

In October we will be looking at Transgender people in hopes that we will all take part in Transgender Remembrance Day in October.

Please become a Interweave Continental Chapter so we can continue our work.

Thank you for the work you are doing for GLBTQ people.

The newsletter is attached and here on the web

<http://www.interweaveuu.org/images/august%202013.pdf>

Nisco Junkin

Interweave Connect

niscohappy@comcast.net

Reproductive Justice

❖ *Reproductive Justice Curriculum from the UUA*

A brand new curriculum from the UUA, "Reproductive Justice: Expanding Our Social Justice Calling," is available for [download](#) now! This six week curriculum is rooted in our religious history and theological callings and outlines the distinctions between reproductive "health," "rights," and "justice." The curriculum offers opportunities to learn about ourselves and each other as sexual and reproductive beings and equips us to move forward, out into the world, with integrity and vision.

Service Learning Trips

❖ *Upcoming Offerings from the UU College of Social Justice*

The UU College of Social Justice is excited to announce several new programs for this fall. These programs spotlight some of the UU justice movement's greatest work and draw on programs of UUSC and the UUA.

Justice for Women and Marginalized Communities in India

Join the UU Holdeen India Program (UUHIP) for a two-week pilgrimage to India. This journey will take us to the western state of Gujarat, where you will witness firsthand the work of the Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA), a UUHIP partner. At the confluence of Indian labor, cooperative, and women's movements, SEWA organizes women working in the informal sector. You will also meet with UUHIP partner Navsarjan and learn about their work organizing Dalits — once branded "untouchables" — to stand up for equal rights.

Learn more and register at uucsj.org/india.

Food for Thought: An Exploration of Eating and Worker Organizing

Working with the Restaurant Opportunities Center of Chicago, a UUSC partner, you will learn about labor history, the injustices of the restaurant industry, and innovative organizing strategies. You will meet directly with workers and organizers and take part in on-the-ground action. This hands-on experience will give you the knowledge and skills you need to choose compassionate consumption and support people at the forefront of change in the food industry — and the drive to get involved when you return home.

Learn more and register at uucsj.org/food.

BorderLinks: Immigration Justice

Delve into important immigration issues with three new programs:

- Sustainable Futures — investigate the connections between our food system and social justice
- Chiapas — learn how to stand with communities struggling for justice in one of Mexico's most impoverished states
- Seminarian Journey — explore the entwined issues of economic justice and immigration on the U.S.-

Mexico border as part of your path to ordination

Learn more and register at uucsj.org/borderlinks.

Virginia

❖ *UU Virginia Legislative Advocacy Network Forming*

Saturday, September 14
Fredericksburg, VA

This will be the first organizational meeting of the group. If you would like to be on the roster of membership send the following information to scbennett@cox.net Name, Congregation, UU roles (ie, minister, lay leader, current leadership roles) e-mail phone contact and any area of particular interest for statewide advocacy in Virginia. Also see the website [here](#)

Youth and Young Adults

❖ *List of Trips and Internships*

Compiled by UUA Young Adult Spirituality and Service
Consultant, Erik Mohn.

<http://www.uua.org/leaders/justice/service>