

# Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice in the National Capital Region

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## From the Executive Director

It's not often that you get a building named after you, but that's what has happened to our UUSJ Board member from Cedar Lane, Catherine Scott. After a long teaching career at Montgomery College, she was honored by their dedicating the new student union in her name. Congratulations, Catherine! (More information, and also on the following, below.)

But you elders and others need not feel left out, since the Walk for Our Grandchildren is coming from Camp David to D.C. July 19-29, tying in with 350's "Summer Heat" events on the 26th and 27th. This will be the major environmental event of this summer. The walk is still looking for volunteer logistical help as well as participants for any duration.

And we have received a request from Susan Leslie, UUA Congregational Advocacy and Witness Director, asking not only for participation in, but also some help with putting people up for, the July 23-25 actions in D.C. by Not 1 More Deportation on behalf of a moratorium on immigration deportations until a more humane system is in place. Register for and offer rooming via the link below under "Immigration."

Rev. Dr. Terence H. Ellen  
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## From the Executive Director

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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](mailto: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](#)

### **❖ *UUSJ Board Member Catherine Scott Honored by Montgomery College***

For the first time in its history Montgomery College has named a building in honor of a faculty member—the Catherine F. Scott Commons at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus. During Kay's nearly 30-year tenure at Montgomery College she taught secretarial studies and served at the Takoma Park Campus of what was then known as the Department of Office Education. Kay's leadership gift to the foundation will support the ACES(Achieving Collegiate Excellence and Success) program which helps students who are underrepresented in higher education and the Macklin Business Institute honors program which provides high-achieving business students with a challenging curriculum, experiential learning opportunities, mentoring and scholarships.

### **❖ *Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Resources***

Visit [www.uua.org/justice](http://www.uua.org/justice) for worship resources, action campaigns, educational materials and more!

### **❖ *UUA General Assembly Reflection Workshop and Chesapeake UU Growth Group (CHUUG) Meeting***

Saturday, August 10 9:00am-2:00pm  
Universalist National Memorial Church  
16th & S St. NW, Washington, DC

Parking is available behind the Masonic Temple on the southeast corner of 16th & S St.

Agenda

9:00-9:30 gathering

**9:30-noon-UUA GA Reflections**

- GA orientation-did it help?
- Suggestions for future orientations
- GA at home: experience with streaming, webcast, voting, congregational viewing
- GA delegates: who are these people?
  - the selection process
  - representing your congregation / region / cluster
- Taking it home: news to use, ideas to develop
- From dreams to reality: collaborations needed to move forward

**12-12:45pm lunch****12:45-2pm-CHUUG Planning Meeting**

- This is the monthly meeting of CHUUG. All attendees are welcome to stay for this meeting.
- Analysis of the morning GA agenda / recommendations
  - Discussion of dreams & ideas and realities and next collaborative steps
  - Old CHUUG business
  - Review CHUUG mission & vision

The morning session will be facilitated by Donna Simonton, CHUUG Committee member.

The afternoon session will be facilitated by John Gubbings, CHUUG Committee chairperson.

For additional information and to RSVP, contact Donna Simonton at [dsimonton@verizon.net](mailto:dsimonton@verizon.net) or [301-588-0905](tel:301-588-0905).

**Anti-Racism/Multiculturalism****❖ *The "New Jim Crow" Book Discussion Group***

Begins Sunday, July 14 at 11:45 a.m. or Tuesday, July 16 at 7 p.m.

First Unitarian Church Franklin and Charles Sts. Baltimore, MD

Michelle Alexander's book, *The New Jim Crow* argues compellingly that the recent mass incarceration of Black Americans has ushered in a new racial caste system. Join us in reading and discussing the book, one chapter at a time. All are welcome to attend any meeting to discuss the chapter at hand, whether or not you've attended in previous months. A full schedule and a flyer are available online by [clicking here](#). Drop-ins are welcome or RSVP to Becky Brooks at [atredirector@firstunitarian.net](mailto:atredirector@firstunitarian.net).

**❖ *National Action to Realize the Dream: America Speaks Tour Town Hall***

Friday, July 19 7:00pm

New Shiloh Baptist Church 2100 North Monroe Street Baltimore, MD

It is time to tackle the issues that plague our nation and the world today! Join Martin Luther King, III and Rev. Al Sharpton as they galvanize the American people to take action and realize the dream! For more information, please see the [Communities without Borders' website](#) or the [National Action Network's website](#).

**❖ *Viewing Islam: Examining the Role of Faith, Freedom of Speech, and Islam in***

## ***America***

Tuesday, July 16 6:30pm-8:30pm  
 New York Avenue Presbyterian Church  
 1313 New York Ave. NW  
 Washington, DC 20005

Sponsored by the International Council of Middle East Studies (ICMES)

### Featured Speakers:

Pastor Terry Jones: Senior Pastor of the Dove World Outreach Center in Gainesville, FL  
 Imam Johari Abdul-Malik : IFC Board Member and Imam of the Dar-Al-Hijri  
 Islamic Center in Falls Church, VA

This panel discussion works to increase understanding of major issues important for Islam in America through open dialogue of different and conflicting points of view on the religion. The ultimate goal is to encourage a more educational approach to dealing with these issues. Audience members will participate in a Q&A session after the discussion.

## **❖ *Transforming Our Whiteness - Weekend Workshop***

Friday August 2 5:00pm--Sunday August 4 3:00pm  
 Washington Ethical Society  
 7750 16th Street NW  
 Washington, DC 20012

Come and be a part of the broader Unitarian Universalist effort to build an anti-racist multicultural religious community. UU Allies for Racial Equity invites white All Souls members and friends to this weekend workshop on whiteness. Scholarships are available. Please contact Paula Cole Jones for more information on that at [pcolejones@gmail.com](mailto:pcolejones@gmail.com).

## **Economic Justice**

### **❖ *National Day of Action to Raise the Minimum Wage***

Wednesday, July 24

With a federal minimum wage that has stagnated for years, millions of full-time workers throughout the country don't make enough to feed their families and keep them above the poverty line. We must raise the minimum wage to a living wage. [Spread the word about the July 24 day of action!](#)

## **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](mailto:mindlaw100@gmail.com)

## **Environmental Concern**

### **❖ *The 2013 Walk for our Grandchildren***

Friday, July 19- Monday, July 29

[www.2013walkforourgrandchildren.org](http://www.2013walkforourgrandchildren.org)

The 2013 Walk for our Grandchildren is part of the campaigns against Keystone XL pipeline and fossil fuel extraction more generally. There have been considerable changes since the original plan. The Walk is now partnered with [www.350.org](http://www.350.org) and Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN). In cooperation with other organizations around the country like Rainforest Action Network, Greenpeace, Sierra Club and others they have created the Summer Heat campaign. This campaign, which will take place at the end of July, involves large-scale and confrontational actions and protests in any number of cities around the country directed toward stopping KXL and challenging fossil fuel extraction. The website for Summer Heat is <http://joinsummerheat.org/panel1/panel-1/> The Walk's part of Summer Heat will take place in Maryland and DC. Central to it will be a walk from Camp David, Maryland, where the walk will start on Friday, July 19. A core group will walk or bike 30 miles to Harpers Ferry, where a hundred or more will join them, leaving there on July 22. We will arrive at the White House on Sunday July 28 for a family-friendly rally and protest. On July 29<sup>th</sup>, in separate actions, there will be protests at TD Bank (funder of KXL), TransCanada (builder of KXL) and the American Petroleum Institute. Contact Susan Presson [4pressons@gmail.com](mailto:4pressons@gmail.com)

### **❖ *Stand Up Against Fossil Fuel Lies***

Friday, July 26

In the heart of downtown DC's corporate fossil fuel corridor, we will join together to Stand Up Against Fossil Fuel Lies. We're going to take nonviolent direct action to expose how the fossil fuel industry distorts the climate debate. Due to the nature of this action, specific details will not be available until a training on the evening of July 25th at a location in DC to be announced. Note, however, that there is an important role for everyone no matter if you're willing to risk arrest or to stand in support. [Click here for more information and to sign up.](#)

### **❖ *Rally at the White House***

Saturday, July 27

On July 27th, we're coming together in Lafayette Park across from the White House to say to President Obama: Keep Your Promises! We will gather by the thousands with walkers from the *Walk For Our Grandchildren* and other partners to call upon President Obama to turn dreams into deeds by rejecting the Keystone XL Pipeline and taking steps to begin leaving fossil fuels in the ground. [Click here for more information and to sign up for the actions on either the 26th and 27th.](#)

### ❖ ***Job Posting: UU Young Adults for Climate Justice Network Manager for UU Ministry for Earth***

Applications are due July 20

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.

Over the past year, Jennifer Nordstrom has done a masterful job of building a UU Young Adult Climate Justice Network under the sponsorship of UU Ministry for Earth. Jennifer graduated from Starr-King in May and will begin an internship with St. Paul's Universalist Church in Minnesota in August. Thanks to funding from the Cedar Tree Foundation, we are able to continue the position and are searching for a young adult who can continue building the network.

The job description for the UU Young Adults for Climate Justice Network Manager is posted on the [UUMFE YA web page](#).

### ❖ ***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](mailto: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 events**

**OPUS 2013:** Aug. 7-11 at Unicamp, a UU summer camp, approximately 1.5 hours NW of Toronto. OPUS is the annual spiritual retreat of the Continental UU Young Adult Network (CUUYAN), and the focus this year will be climate justice.

-- [To register](#)

-- [For Scholarships](#)

**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](mailto:uuyacj@gmail.com)

-- [Conference info](#)

mail [uuyacj@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:unitednations@uua.org).

### ❖ *Maryland Climate Change Summit*

Thursday, July 25 9:30 a.m.

The Conference Center at the Maritime Institute  
692 Maritime Blvd Linthicum Heights, MD

Please join Governor Martin O'Malley, leading scientists, renewable energy business leaders and climate change policy experts for a discussion on the progress Maryland has made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change along with the important actions that still need to be taken to meet our goals, as the Governor releases Maryland's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan. Under Governor Martin O'Malley's leadership, Maryland is moving forward to address climate change with a Plan that will reduce greenhouse gases 25 percent by 2020.

### ❖ *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 udivestment 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](mailto:terryw@kcnet.com))

First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee

## **Human Trafficking**

### ❖ *A Crime So Monstrous: Face to Face with Modern-Day Slavery*

Monday, July 15 The free film begins at 7:00 pm with an optional (\$13.00) vegan buffet starting at 6:30 pm  
New Deal Café 113 Centerway, Greenbelt 20770.

Reel and Meal at the New Deal Cafe will screen *FLE\$H: Bought and Sold in the U.S.* This month's event is guest co-sponsored by Greenbelt CARES. *FLE\$H*, a shocking documentary, calls into question our definitions of slavery, human trafficking, and prostitution in the United States. This is a story told by girls who have escaped and by those still enslaved, former and current pimps, the abolitionists of today, including directors of non-profit organizations, a former U.S. Ambassador, LAPD vice and the L.A. City Task Force on Human Trafficking. *FLE\$H* goes behind the scenes of the third largest criminal industry that preys upon girls, whose average age of entry is twelve to fourteen. The interviews give voice to those in the business of prostitution and to those seeking to end it. Together they offer startling perspectives on what drives trafficking here in the U.S. *FLE\$H* does not end with the presentation of trafficking in the U.S. - it delves into its causes To learn more about *FLE\$H*, visit <http://www.fleshthemovie.org/press>.

The evening's facilitators include:

- Jeanne Allert, Founder and Director of **The Samaritan Women** - <http://thesamaritanwomen.org/humantrafficking>;
- Kathryn Maslanka, Development Associate, **Polaris Project** - <http://www.polarisproject.org>;
- Robert Lauer, **Police Supervisor/Homeland Security Coordinator** for the City of Greenbelt;
- Glenda Bullock-Willis, Crisis Counselor at **Greenbelt CARES** - <http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/CARES>; and
- Tina Bigdeli, MSW, Maryland Outreach & Direct Services Program Manager, **FAIR Girls** - <http://www.fairgirls.org>

"When we're defining slavery, fundamentally at its core it's the same in each and every circumstance. We're talking about people forced to work held through fraud, under threat of violence, for no pay beyond subsistence. If we're talking about forced commercial sexual slavery, forced prostitution, there's an added element of humiliation or shame, because we're talking about rape" (B.Skinner).

Join us to learn more about human trafficking, how it impacts residents of Greenbelt, Prince George's County and Metro DC, and what you can do to help end human slavery

Reel & Meal is sponsored by three Greenbelt affinity groups: Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group; Green Vegan Networking; and Prince George's County Peace and Justice Coalition.

### Immigration

#### ❖ *Not 1 More Deportation Conference*

Tuesday, July 23- Thursday, July 25  
Washington, DC

From July 23-25<sup>th</sup> hundreds of people in deportation proceedings; people whose lives actually hang in the balance of decisions in Washington, will travel to DC to insert themselves into the immigration debate and demand their cases be closed and deportations be suspended as Congress debates reform. It's crunch time. And if those directly affected do not take an active role in the process, the decisions will proceed, deals cut. The

Beltway is an unreal place where numbers don't matter (*say '11 million' even though the Senate bill already only includes half that*), false hopes are written as grant deliverables and Republicans unmasked hatred makes the President's record deportations seem like a peace offering. The #Not1More Deportation gathering will be three days of making sure the most important voices in the debate are unquestionably heard through direct action, story sharing and surprises. For more information and to register, go to <http://bit.ly/dcjuly239>

### ❖ *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](mailto:vacolao@gmail.com)

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

or visit: [www.vacolao.org](http://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](mailto: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/>

### ❖ *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](http://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.

## **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](http://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](http://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](http://uucsj.org/borderlinks).

**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>