

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice in the National Capital Region

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From the Administrator

As I heard the verdict in the Trayvon Martin case I felt frustration but understanding. I thought the stand your ground law made it hard to convict George Zimmerman. He only seemed to have to prove that he was defending himself. But, the stand your ground law also gave Martin the right to defend himself. Two people, both of whom seemed fearful of the other, met and one ended up dead and another a killer. There needs to be an ongoing effort to repeal “stand your ground laws” where they are in effect. Two people “standing their ground” against each other cannot lead to good.

Is there someone in your congregation whose social justice work should be honored? Consider nominating him or her for a social justice award to be given at the October 20 Social Justice Gala. Nominations need to be in by September 6 at noon. Find the nomination form here <http://uusj.net/wp/2013-gala-awards-nominations/>

Save the date to participate in the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington on Saturday, August 24. All Souls Church, Unitarian will host a pre-rally gathering Friday, August 23. For more details look under Anti-racism/Multiculturalism in the articles in this edition.

Our next UUSJ Board Meeting will be held on Saturday, September 21 9:30am-12:30pm at the UU Congregation of Rockville. UUSJ Board meetings are open.

Cynthia A. Snavely, Administrator



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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](#)

❖ *Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Resources*

Visit 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 or [301-588-0905](tel:301-588-0905).

❖ *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- Save the Date*

Saturday, August 24 8:00am

Washington, DC

Friday, August 23 evening pre-rally

All Souls Church, Unitarian

[March on Washington Flyer](#)

[March on Washington UU Rally Location \(1\)](#)

In anticipation of the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington, All Souls Church, Unitarian in Washington DC will host a fun Pre-Rally sign making/pizza dinner event for Unitarian Universalists on the evening of Friday, August 23rd at All Souls. www.all-souls.org As a part of that event, we are hoping to have some Unitarian Universalists who were at the 1963 March on Washington to share their inspirational stories. Perhaps we will sing some protest songs as well. As this is being described as a "continuation march" by the organizers in that it will also address the social justice issues that we face today in addition to honoring the memory of the original march and its historical significance, we also plan to hear from some folks in regards to next steps in our social justice/anti-racism work too. We are asking for RSVPs (to Jan Smart at smartjuanita@mac.com) for this event in order to know how much food to order for the (we will be asking for 5\$ per person) pizza and salad dinner. Please have folks put "MLK March" in the subject line of the RSVP email in order to more easily track those RSVPs.

The meet-up location for the Saturday, August 24th Anniversary of the March on Washington rally where we will be with our banners and signs standing on the side of love, is on the north side of the reflecting pool about midway down directly underneath the sidewalk that leads to the reflecting pool from the Constitution Gardens part of the Mall. The schedule has the pre-rally beginning at 8am at the Lincoln Memorial, the main rally will be at 10am, the march over to the MLK Jr. Memorial will take place around noon, and then after the march there will be a celebration event in the large field past the MLK Jr. Memorial. We expect people to arrive and

leave at various times that work for their schedules, but hope that most folks will be there for the main rally portion of the event which is scheduled from 10am until noon on Saturday, August 24th. Please contact Craig Dylan Wyatt with questions (cdw@rockrivertree.com). Please help us spread the word about this special anniversary event!

❖ *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.

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

❖ *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 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

-- [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)<<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 July Newsletter*

[july2013interweave](#) DOMA article is on page 18 in the July issue of *Interweave Connect*!!

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.

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>