



# MVUUC Social Justice Newsletter

**December 2015**

It's an abbreviated newsletter this month; thought I'd take a little break in December. Here are a few random thoughts from your editor.

- Many thanks to Aaryn Urell for sharing with us during her short visit to California. Her words about the Equal Justice Initiative were inspiring and thought provoking.
- Be sure to follow the Paris Climate Conference (COP 21). Surely global warming is the most important issue in our world today.
- I watch with awe and wonder at the many efforts of our congregants as we work together for peace, equality, and justice!
- Don't forget to contribute to the Guest at Your Table box.
- Help others enjoy the season by participating in the holiday gift tree.
- This is a good time to renew your UUSC membership. Join if you haven't already!
- Thanks to the members of the Social Justice Coordinating Committee for their dedication, creativity, and commitment. Gratitude to the MVUUC board members for their tireless efforts in compassionate governance. Appreciation for those who work behind the scenes to make our congregation a warm, inviting, and functioning home.

As we reflect on this season of light in the darkness, may we continue to fan the flames of justice in our homes, communities, and world.

Margaret Davis



## Adult Forum

The Adult Forum meets on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays of each month at 8:45 a.m. in the Founders' Room at MVUUC for lively discussion of pertinent topics. See Harry Ragland for more information.

## 3rd Sunday Letter Writing

Seize the opportunity to join in letter writing on the patio after church every third Sunday. All materials including information are provided, but you are welcome to bring your own ideas and issues to write about. Previously written letters are getting great responses from legislators. Hand written letters carry a lot of weight so let's keep this up! Thanks to Teresia Santee for coordinating this important opportunity.

## Share the Plate (Monthly Social Justice Offering)

**Note: Remember that this offering is now taken on second Sundays.**

You can make checks out to either the organization of the month or to MVUUC.

**Traveling?** Don't forget to save those hotel toiletries for IVHP. Collection box on the fireplace.

## Afterthoughts and More

Join a lively discussion after church on *2nd and 4th Sundays* after church. Topics include homily response, current events, etc. Look for the Afterthoughts sign on the patio.

## MVUUC Liaisons

**Catherine Rowlee** is our connection with Equal Exchange and Fair Trade.

**Jeanine Little** is our liaison to the UU United Nations Office.

**Teresia Santee** and **Doris Warren** link us to the Hope Partners Beta Program.

**Colleen Bennett** connects us to Progressive Christians Uniting and Death Penalty Focus.

**Rev. Ann** is our liaison to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Pomona Valley

**Anne Thorward** is our UUSC and UUJMoC liaison.

**Margaret Davis** is the link to the Citizens' Climate Lobby.

**Julie Steinbach** is the connection to our Philippines partnership.

## UU Social Justice Links

**UU Justice Ministry of California** <http://uujmca.org/http://uujmca.org/> The Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry of California advances justice in our state by cultivating and connecting leaders and communities, and by empowering the public voice of those who share UU values and principles. They seek to develop the skills of civic engagement that we may educate, organize, and advocate for public policies.

**Unitarian Universalist Service Committee** <http://www.uusc.org/> The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is a human rights organization powered by grassroots collaboration. In 15 countries throughout the world, UUSC fosters social justice and works toward a world free from oppression. UUSC's innovative approaches

and measurable impact are grounded in the moral belief that all people have inherent power, dignity, and rights.

**Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office** From involvement in the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to leading the faith caucus to establish the International Criminal Court, to overcoming UN apathy about sexual orientation & gender identity issues, the UU-UNO has a long history of providing strong leadership in all aspects of human rights at a policy level through UN consultative status.

## **Contributions to the Newsletter**

If you have calendar events or community justice actions pertaining to any MVUUC social justice areas of focus, please send them to [socialjustice@montevistauu.org](mailto:socialjustice@montevistauu.org). The Social Justice group email list is an open forum. If you have events or references that would be appropriate for others to hear about, particularly in regard to our five focus areas, the best way to relay the information is to make your own group mail list with the addresses in this newsletter or simply “reply all” to the newsletter.

## **MVUUC Social Justice Areas of Focus for the Congregational Year 2015/16**

- 1. Global Warming**
- 2. Economic Inequality**
- 3. Immigration**
- 4. Criminal Justice**

*Note: With each new congregational year, these areas of focus will be re-evaluated.*

## **Purpose of the Social Justice Coordinating Committee**

The social justice team coordinates activities that promote human rights and social justice locally and globally.