



MVUUC



Social Justice Newsletter January 2016

Coming Soon

January 10 The Second Sunday Collection will be taken for the Claremont Prison Library Project.

January 17 after church on the patio Letter writing Sunday! Please share your thoughts with our representatives.

January 17 and 31 8:45 a.m. The Adult Forum meets at MVUUC.

January 20 7:00 p.m. Claremont Forum Bookshop (in the Packing House)The film, "Heist: Who Stole the American Dream" will be shown as part of the Conscientious Projector film series.

January 23,24 LA City College The Citizens' Climate Lobby annual regional conference will be held.

January 24th 5:00 to 7:00 PM Decker Hall, Pilgrim Place The United Nations Association USA will hold their annual potluck and feature a speaker addressing new developments at the U.N.

February 28, 7:00 p.m. La Verne Church of the Brethren Steve Rohde will speak as part of the Agenda for a Prophetic Faith series: *Repairing our Broken Criminal Justice System*.

Fair Trade Focus

Fair trade is about better prices, decent working conditions and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers. It can be local or international. It can be coffee, furniture, beauty products, gold, fruit, candy, clothing, jewelry, and many other things.

Our congregation has long participated in fair trade by selling Equal exchange products and using EE coffee during our hospitality time. Many members seek out fair trade products as individuals. The Social Justice Coordinating Committee is recommending that we become a Fair Trade Congregation. This includes but is not limited to:

1. Incorporating Fair Trade into the social teachings of the congregation.
2. Replacing goods purchased by the congregation with Fair Trade products where and when they are available.
3. Incorporating Fair Trade products into any pre-existing events.

We already do some of this at MVUUC so it would not be a major change, rather a mind-set of fair trade. It really goes along with our MVUUC social justice objectives. Look for more information to come.

Here are some logos to look for when you shop:



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. The December collection for the Claremont Homeless Advocacy Program netted \$472.00!

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. 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.