



Social Justice Newsletter

March 2016

Coming Soon

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*.

March 1 6:15 Claremont Presbyterian Church NAMI Pomona Valley presents Michael Sapp speaking on “Building Resilience to Trauma”, an introduction to Community Resiliency Models.

March 6 8:45 MVUUC Freethinkers Forum (formerly Adult Forum) *Miracles: Do they occur?*

March 6 10:30AM MVUUC “The Knock at the Door”. In addition to speaker Pam Sparr from UUSC in Boston, there will be a luncheon for Syrian refugees who live nearby. Breaking bread together is the universal way to create community. You will meet several families (translators will be present). *Bring a potluck dish* to share (anything except pork). Park in the Applebee’s parking lot, and plan to stay longer than usual. Syrians are bringing food too. MVUUC is one of the first UU congregations to offer a Welcoming Lunch for refugees. This is a terrific opportunity for MVUUC to be truly welcoming. *Note: Share the Plate offering will be taken on this day instead of the following Sunday, and will go toward the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.*

March 6 7:00 Claremont United Methodist Church

Agenda for a Prophetic Faith will present Susan Emmerich, speaking on “Creating a Future for America’s Left Behind Young Adults”.

March 20 8:45 MVUUC Freethinkers Forum (formerly Adult Forum) *Artificial Intelligence*

University of La Verne Sustainability Film Series 7:00 p.m.

March 4 *Black Hole* (coal mining in Australia)

March 11 *Sea the Truth* (environmental dangers of ocean fishing)

No films on March 18th or 25th

Save the Date

April 3 Claremont United Church of Christ 7:00 p.m.

Agenda for Prophetic Faith will present Rev. Galen Guengerich of the Unitarian Church of All Souls in New York, speaking on “Redeeming American Politics Through a Return to Gratitude”.

April 7-9 New York City UU UNO Intergenerational Spring Seminar (See Jeanine Little for more information.)

Fair Trade Update

The MVUUC Board of Trustees approved moving toward designation as a Fair Trade Congregation and information was presented to a recent Council of Chairs meeting. Since our congregation already has taken action in this direction, the certification will be fairly simple. There are three actions we must take:

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

Each year we must add to our efforts, but we are already well on our way. Watch for further updates and jump the Fair Trade bandwagon by looking for *products provided by farmers and workers who are justly treated and fairly compensated.*



Our Allies

The **Interfaith Sustainability Council** is a group representing 18 congregations and organizations from the Inland Valley focusing on climate change and overuse of natural resources. The ISC supports efforts of individuals, congregations, and the community at large to conserve energy and water, recycle materials, and use local food products whenever possible.

Representatives from the various groups come together monthly to share progress of individual congregations and organizations and also to plan group activities. Fair trade, urban farming, composting, climate change initiatives, energy efficient buildings, and immigrant rights, are just a few of the focus areas for this group.

The ISC partners with the City of Claremont in planning the annual Earth Day Celebration, hosted a sustainability booth at Pomona College's Native American PowWow, is involved with helping Syrian refugees, advocates for sustainability via letters to editors and meetings with City Council members among many other activities.

Though the many efforts of the Interfaith Sustainability Council are too numerous to mention in this space, suffice it to say that it is a vital group that represents incredible efforts toward justice and sustainability locally and globally. Our MVUUC representative is Catherine Rowlee.

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. Please make checks out to the organization receiving the offering.

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

Equal Exchange and Fair Trade *Catherine Rowlee*

UU United Nations Office *Jeanine Little*

Hope Partners Beta Program *Teresia Santee and Doris Warren*

Progressive Christians Uniting & Death Penalty Focus *Colleen Bennett*

National Alliance on Mental Illness, Pomona Valley *Rev. Ann*

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee & UU Justice Ministry of California

Anne Thorward

Citizens' Climate Lobby *Margaret Davis*

Philippines Partnership International,

Women's Convocation,

International Council of UU's

Julie Steinback

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 and Refugees
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.