



Social Justice Newsletter

May 2016

May 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays 8:45 MVUUC Founders' Room The Free Thinkers' group meets on these Sundays and often discusses social justice issues. On June 5 they will be reviewing ballot measures.

May 8 and 22, after church at MVUUC Come to a lively discussion on the patio at the Afterthoughts Table! Topics may include something addressed in the service or an area of interest or concern from those at the table.

May 15 after church at MVUUC Write a letter or two about issues that are important to you! Materials provided. See Teresia Santee on the patio.

May 13-15 9:30 Downtown Claremont It's Fair Trade Weekend in Claremont! Claremont is a designated "Fair Trade Town" and will be having a weekend featuring shops that sell fair trade goods. Many will have discounted items, from chocolate ice cream to greeting cards to coffee to jewelry to vinegar, and many more. Stop by and check it out.

May 14 9:30 Pilgrim Place, Napier Center The monthly meeting of the Citizens' Climate Lobby will meet. There will be a conference call, then a business meeting. All are welcome.

May 18 7:00 p.m. at The Claremont Forum Bookstore, 1st St. in Claremont The monthly film presented by the group Conscientious Projector will be *Racing to Zero, In Pursuit of Zero Waste*. Free, discussion to follow.

Resource Guides

The City of Claremont and the Claremont Police Department have recently made available flyers with great information for folks in need. These include community resources for mental health, substance abuse, legal assistance, hunger, shelter, medical assistance, youth crisis, and more. People in need often come to MVUUC hoping for help. Having these flyers ready to give out will surely be useful in helping match people to resources. They will be available in the office and outside, near the front door.

Special Recognition

Since our minister, Reverend Ann Schranz, is retiring in June, the Social Justice Coordinating Committee recently reflected on her commitment to justice issues

and actions during her time with MVUUC. Rev. Ann has shown this dedication on so many occasions. In a time when our community's Muslim neighbors faced discrimination, Ann helped lead the way to fairness. She worked hard to get our congregation's social justice group back together and chaired the committee for a year. The fledgling Inland Valley Citizens' Climate Lobby needed a place to meet and not only did she offer MVUUC, she was the first chapter chair person and got this active group off to a great start. She instigated the social justice chalice lighting and has made peace and justice an important and regular part of worship services. In the larger community, Rev. Ann has been a leader. Our congregation is known as a champion for justice, in part due to her actions. Other actions for social justice are too numerous to cite in this space, but the SJCC wishes to recognize and show our great appreciation to Reverend Schranz.

SJCC Committee Update

As we near the end of the fiscal year at MVUUC, so the social justice coordinating committee draws to a close of the year as well. The group will be looking at revising our focus areas as we do each year, and will begin designating recipient groups of Share the Plate offerings. We meet on the fourth Thursday of each month in the Founders' Room at 6:00 p.m.

Fair Trade Update

MVUUC is now officially registered with Fair Trade Campaigns: <http://fairtradecampaigns.org/campaign/monte-vista-unitarian-universalist-congregation/> Now the work begins. We already have a great start with fair trade merchandise for sale, coffee/tea/honey served at coffee hour, and many committed congregants. Here are a couple additional fair trade actions you can take now:

Purchase goods from UUSC's online store, **The Good Buy**, which offers fairly traded items. <http://www.thegoodbuy.com>

If you use a Smart Phone, add the app, **Buycott**. This allows you to scan UPC bar codes on many products and tells you if they are fairly traded. You can also set the app to let you know about animal testing, genetically modified items, etc.

A reminder of the actions to which we are committed:

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.*



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)

Please make checks out to the organization receiving the offering. The May offering is the choice of our Religious Exploration youth, and will be for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Association.

The March collection for UUSC was \$834.00, and the April collection for IWC was \$511.00. Thanks to our generous congregation!

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 Center Food Security 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 Steinbach

UU Social Justice Links

UUJusticeMinistryofCalifornia! <http://uujmca.org/http://uujmca.org/>

[TheUnitarian](#) 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.