



MVUUC



Social Justice Newsletter November 2015

Coming Soon

November 1, 15, and 29 8:45 MVUUC The Adult Forum will meet. All are welcome.

November 7, 9:30 MVUUC The Inland Valley Citizens' Climate Lobby will have their monthly meeting and conference call. All are welcome.

November 7, 7:30 p.m. Claremont Forum presents John York in concert. John is a Claremonter of world renown, acclaimed as a masterful guitar player and singer. This concert will be held at the Claremont Packing House and will cost \$10.00 in advance or \$12.00 at the door. Proceeds benefit the Prison Library Project.

See: www.claremontforum.org

November 8, 11:30 The La Verne Church of the Brethren will host their annual Alternative Gift Faire. The Faire offers a rare opportunity to purchase unique and thoughtful gifts for family and friends while helping those struggling to survive. The church is located at the corner of Bonita and E Streets in La Verne

November 8 Share the Plate Our monthly offering will be given to the National Alliance on Mental Illness. NAMI is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. See: www.nami.org

November 8 and 22 after church The Afterthoughts table will be available for discussion.

November 15, 12:15 (after church) Aaryn Urell will speak about the Equal Justice Initiative in the sanctuary at MVUUC. See below for details.

November 18 7:00 p.m. The Conscientious Projector series will show a documentary at the Claremont Packinghouse.

November 22 Find out about our annual Guest at Your Table program, which begins on this Sunday. See below for more information.

Walk for the Hungry Report

What a great turnout for this year's Walk For the Hungry! More than twenty of us walked, many of us pledged, and we surpassed our fundraising goal of \$2,500.00 with a whopping \$2,657.00 total! It's our best turnout in years. Kudos to walkers, pledgers, and especially our Walk coordinator, Kathy Mason. Thanks also to our youth and their advisors who gave us a needed boost on a very warm afternoon. All money raised goes to the Inland Valley Hope Partners, providing food, shelter, and general assistance for those in need in our valley.

Special Announcement



Aaryn Urell

Senior Attorney

Equal Justice Initiative

Monte Vista Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Sunday, November 15 at 12:15

Don't miss this opportunity to hear attorney **Aaryn Urell** speak and answer questions about the Equal Justice Initiative. The EJI is a private, nonprofit organization that provides legal representation to indigent defendants, prisoners on death row, and those who have been denied fair and just treatment in the legal system. Aaryn works closely with Bryan Stevenson, author of *Just Mercy*. She will share her experiences as an EJI attorney and help us learn more about this group's important support for prisoner justice.

Sponsored by the MVUUC Social Justice Coordinating Committee

(Bryan Stevenson will be speaking at Pomona College in March; look for details to come.)

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE

Guest at Your Table is an annual fundraising and education program that supports UUSC's human rights work. We invite everyone to take part: individuals, families, small groups, congregations, and community organizations. Over the decades, Guest at Your Table has raised millions of dollars for human rights projects that have made a real difference in people's lives.

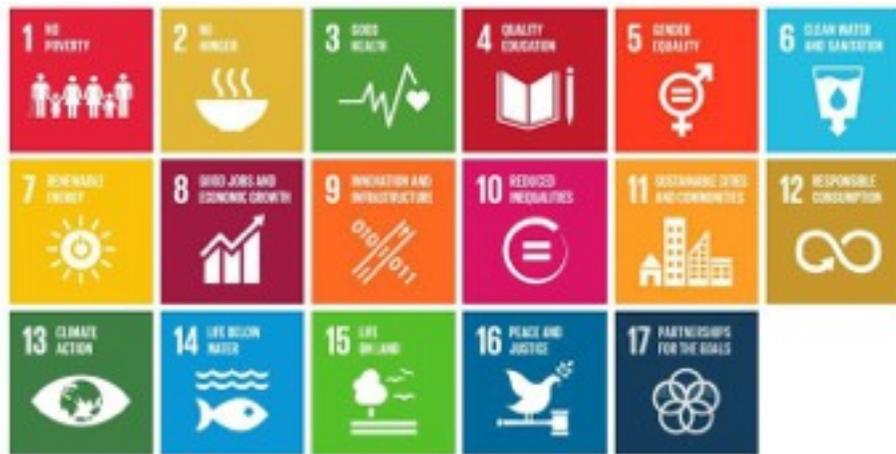
This year Guest at Your Table highlights the empowerment of refugees and displaced people. One of UUSC's major focuses is serving the people who are most overlooked or discriminated against in the midst of humanitarian crises such as forced migration, large-scale conflicts, genocide, and natural disasters. As UUSC celebrates its 75th anniversary this year, we'll look back to our origin: Martha and Rev. Waitstill Sharp helping European refugees escape persecution during World War II. We are excited to share several inspiring stories this year!

See more at: <http://www.uusc.org/guest-at-your-table-for-beginners#sthash.ENsTEQcG.dpuf>

Thanks to Anne Thorward for being our UUSC representative!

News from the UU-UNO (United Nations Office)

These are the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations. They will be in place for the next fifteen years. You can go to the following website to find out more about the goals: sustainabledevelopment.un.org



Time To Act:

In light of the newly adopted [Sustainable Development Goals](#), the following "Time to Act" suggestions are related to the [First SDG](#):

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Raise the Minimum Wage: Help the UUSC and UUA lobby for a fair minimum wage by [signing on to their statement](#) at http://actnow.uusc.org/site/PageNavigator/Newdesign_UUA_UUSC_Minimum_Wage_Statement.html

Campaign for worker's rights: Our partners at the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee have information on "Fight for \$15", "Justice in the Food Chain", and "Compassionate Consumption" at <http://www.uua.org/economic/livingwage>

Tell the CEO of Wendy's fast food chain to join the Fair Food Program at: <https://secure2.convio.net/uusc/site/Advocacy.jsessionid=3BB6BE617298278C07DB7E41AFCE6FF0.app267a?pagename=homepage&page=UserAction&id=438&autologin=true&AddInterest=1023>

Host a screening the film "[The Dark Side of Chocolate](#)" or sign petitions to promote the rights of workers at <http://www.laborrights.org/action-center>

Thanks to Jeanine Little, our UU UNO liaison, for sharing this.

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. 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.