



Social Justice Newsletter

April 2016

Coming Soon

April 2 Riverside UU Church 9:00-noon “Lifer Family Forum, Information, Support & Encouragement for those with Loved Ones Doing Life” contact Steve at LiferFamilyForum@gmail.com (free program)

First, Third, and Fifth Sundays, 8:45 MVUUC Join the Freethinkers’ Forum (formerly Adult Forum) for discussion.

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 San Bernardino Planning Commission meeting, 385 N. Arrowhead in S.B. 9:00 a.m. We have an opportunity to support Al Nur Islamic Center at a San Bernardino County Planning Commission appeals hearing.

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

April 10 Napier Center, Pilgrim Place 9:30 The Citizens’ Climate Lobby will meet for the monthly business meeting and conference call. All are welcome.

April 23 Claremont (Second Street) 10:00-2:00 p.m. Claremont’s annual Earth Day Celebration...many groups will have information booths, live music.

Equal Justice Initiative Speaker Review

Bryan Stevenson recently spoke at Bridges Auditorium about his work with the Equal Justice Initiative in Alabama. He gave an informative and inspiring talk, sharing his personal history and the amazing accomplishments and challenges of the EJI to bring fairness and justice to those incarcerated around the country. Debbi Scurto’s daughter Aaryn Urell is an attorney with that group and she shared with us a few months ago. The BUUK group read Stevenson’s book, *Just Mercy*, and many members of our congregation attended the talk last Tuesday.

Justice Sunday Review

Many thanks to those who helped make Justice Sunday happen, from the planners to the musicians to the dishwashers. This was a marvelous opportunity to hear a terrific speaker and to socialize with some of our local Syrian refugees.

Fair Trade Update

Great news! 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)

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 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

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.