



First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Palm Beaches

Justice Action Ministry Newsletter (Formerly known as Social Action Committee)

ISSUE # 40

January, 2017

DEAR WORLD CHANGER,

There are many opportunities for Justice Action in the next few months. All the ones I know about right now are listed below. Others will be listed on our [Justice Action Ministry Facebook page](#) as I become aware of them. Please study the calendar below and decide not if, but how you will participate. More details will be available as events get closer. **Please try to be present for Jan. 12 Teaching Thursday for education and questions in preparation for a Congregational vote on Jan. 29.**

May Peace and Justice Prevail on Earth,
Judy Bonner

OPPORTUNITIES

****Thursday Jan. 12 7:00 - Teaching Thursday RACIAL JUSTICE TOWN HALL Teaching Thursday****

WHAT COULD RACIAL JUSTICE LOOK LIKE AT 1ST. UU?

6:00 Dinner by our own extraordinary chef – **Henry Gruen** who will make his **famous pulled pork** to be served with collard greens and mac ‘n cheese.
Call the office with your reservations by Wednesday January 11. \$10 a person

7:00 Let’s consider the following questions together.

Will we endorse the **UUA Black Lives Matter Movement UUA2015 Action of Immediate Witness?**

<http://www.uua.org/statements/support-black-lives-matter-movement>

Will we start a **Showing Up for Racial Justice** chapter?

<http://www.showingupforracialjustice.org/about>

Will we become a **Sanctuary for Dreamers** if they are being deported?

<http://www.uua.org/immigration/witness/partners/newsanctuary>

We will discuss all these ideas and answer your questions.

Your JAM team unanimously endorses these issues and hopes all of you will make an effort to attend.

On Sunday January 29 we will be voting as a congregation on these three important issues.

**Join us for the
Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade
Saturday, January 14, 2017
Let’s show that 1stUUPB cares!**

9am carpool from 1stUUPB parking lot, or

9:30am meet at Blue Heron and Congress (Call 289-600-3935 Sat. morning for our position in the parade)

If we want to show our Black sisters and brothers that we stand with them in their struggles, one way is to participate in the Martin Luther King Jr. parade in Riviera Beach.

Wear your gold "On the Side of Love" shirts.

If walking is difficult, you can ride.

Although we will have lots of water, we suggest you also bring your own supply as well as any snacks you might want

Caps, sunscreen and sunglasses are essential.

If you want to decorate vehicles, drive, etc. please contact your organizers:

Contact: Bob and Lynn Tomlinson

Email: eaglebob1942@yahoo.com or tomlinson.lynn@gmail.com

Cell Phone: 289-600-3935 Home: 561-304-9530

Sunday, Jan. 15, 2017 2:00PM – 3:00PM **A CALL TO ACTION: SAVE HEALTH CARE** Found
Care Health Center 2330 S Congress Ave, West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Sat. Jan. 21 12:30 – FILM AND DISCUSSION Wayne Johnson

"The Best Democracy Money Can Buy" This is a very informative movie about the myth behind America's beloved right to vote. Voting in America has been a progressive matter, i.e. at the very beginning of the country only white males who owned property could vote. Slowly over the centuries that right has officially been expanded to cover all but, as this movie reminds and shows, the effort to restrict and prevent people from voting has morphed with the times. Voter suppression efforts are more sophisticated but still arise from the same fundamentally anti-democratic and racist beliefs of those who suppress. A lot of people say that their vote doesn't matter and that voting doesn't matter; but as this movie shows you tell the importance of voting by the effort expended to suppress it.

Sat. Jan. 21, 2017 DAY OF ACTION (10:00AM – 1:00PM)

WOMEN'S FOUNDATION of PALM BEACH COUNTY

Keiser University, 2085 Vista Parkway, West Palm Beach

Judith Selzer (event organizer): <Judith@WomensFoundationPBC.org>; (561) 909-8415

Facilitators will guide you in creating agendas, action pieces, etc.

Participants are requested to register at <www.tinyurl.com/JAN21WPB> for this event.

Here is a flyer for this event: [Women's Day of Action](#)

PALM BEACH COUNTY WOMEN'S SOLIDARITY RALLY (begins at NOON)

SOUTH FLORIDA ACTIVISM in concert with National and International partners

525 South Flagler Drive, West Palm Beach

Star Fae (founder and event organizer): <southfloridaactivism@gmail.com>; (561) 856-2474

South Florida Activism invites you to join our event in West Palm Beach at the same time sister events are happening in cities across the globe. Please feel free to bring signs, drums, and other

non-amplified instruments, dress up, sing, make your voice LOUD, and participate in our peaceful, non-violent demonstration in whatever way you feel comfortable. We stand together in solidarity with our partners and children for the protection of our rights, our safety, our health, and our families — recognizing that our vibrant and diverse communities are the strength of our country. We support the advocacy and resistance movements that reflect our multiple and intersecting identities. We call on all defenders of human rights to join us. This march is the first step towards unifying our communities, grounded in new relationships, to create change from the grassroots level up. We will not rest until women have parity and equity at all levels of leadership in society. We work peacefully while recognizing there is no true peace without justice and equity for all. HEAR OUR VOICE.

Sat. Jan. 28 10:00 to 5:00- NATURE'S SPIRIT CONFERENCE

The first Nature's Spirit Conference aims to bring together the urgent insights of environmental science and the fires of commitment in interfaith communities. Spiritual activism, as faith in action, can empower people to forge new alliances and stand up to fight the challenges we face locally and across the nation. The First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Palm Beaches will be hosting us at 635 Prosperity Farms Road, North Palm Beach, FL 33408. We'll start promptly at 10 AM and plan to b go until 5 PM.



****Sunday Jan. 29 12:30- CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** to vote to endorse **UUA Black Lives Matter Movement 2015 Action of Immediate Witness**, start a **PBC chapter of Showing Up for Racial Justice** and become a **Sanctuary for Dreamers** if they are being deported ******

Sat. – Sun Feb. 11-12 DIALOGUE: RACISM WORKSHOP– (10 AM to 5 PM) and (Sunday) February 12 (1 PM to 5 PM). Flagrant racism dominated the news during 2016, from the higher rate of black people being killed by police to the heightened awareness of racism in our institutions and structures. If you want learn more about the roots of racism and some possibilities for healing the wounds it creates, please attend the **workshop hosted by Healing**

Justice of The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Boca Raton (UUFBR) 2601 St. Andrews Boulevard, Boca Raton, FL 33434.

Presenters: Cherry Steinwender and Lucy McLaughlin from the Houston based Center for the Healing of Racism. To learn more about this organization and these outstanding presenters go to www.centerhealingracism.org

Cost: \$25 for lunch (Saturday) and refreshments (both days).

To register: Call 561-482-2001 Monday-Thursday 9 AM to 1 PM before January 29, 2017.

Registration limited to the first 50 people to sign up.

Thursdays from Feb. 2 until March 30, 4:00 to 5:30 BOOK DISCUSSION – WITNESSING WHITENESS by Shelley Tochluk Sign up and purchase book at Jan. 12 Teaching Thursday.

Sat. Feb.18, 12:30 – FILM AND DISCUSSION - Wayne Johnson (TBA)

March 3-4-2017 Healing Souls Across America Conference Mothers Against Murderers Association, Inc. 5840 Corporate Way Suite #112, West Palm Beach, Florida 33407

Held at Zara's (Ramada Inn), 1901 Palm Beach, Lakes Blvd, West Palm Beach, Florida 33409
Registration Fee: Total Conference Package \$110.00 That Amount does not include Hotel.

Conference Date: March 03, 2017

Cost \$ 60.00 (Conference Include Lunch)

Conference Date: March 04, 2017

Cost \$ 50.00 (Tie & Gown Event)

A few of us are attending the Friday conference. Please contact

Judybonner1@outlook.com for more details. This is a group with whom we partner and who deserves our support.

April 3, 4 and 5 Reversing Inequality Conference in Washington DC. UUs for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC), with our partner in the capital region, UUs for Social Justice (UUSJ), is hosting the on This conference will focus on the crucial social and economic justice issues that the new administration is threatening. This is a time when UUs can stand up for their values. We will be joined by several of our justice allies, including Sister Simone Campbell and Chuck Collins, build advocacy skills and spend time on capitol hill talking with decisions makers.

What You Can Do: Sponsor a Member

As a progressive and compassionate UU Congregation, we ask that you consider sponsoring members of your social justice committee or leadership to attend and join like-minded UUs making a difference by not only defending our

gains for social and economic justice but also join people standing for a world that is more compassionate and just. Participants will gain skills to continue their advocacy work back in their congregations and bring home valuable resources and a broader network to build upon your local efforts. Our toolkit will help them hold meetings to share their experience, write op-eds, etc...

What You Can Do: Sponsor a UU with Limited Resources To ensure activist UUs are able to participate in the conference, we are building a scholarship fund to help defray costs. Congregations are stepping up to the plate to help make this a reality. Congregations, like the UU Fellowship of Door County, Wisconsin, who informed us their third Sunday collection will be dedicated to this cause. Please consider similar activities in your congregation to join us in reversing inequality. For questions or for more information, please contact UUJEC Administrator, Rachel at uujec@uujec.com 260-837-8938

Conference details, registration information and local lodging options can be found here:
<http://uujec.com/ReversingInequality>

REPORTS

THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES UNDER SEIGE – PROGRESS REPORT

In December the Justice Action Ministry hosted a brainstorming session to address the questions:
(1) Are the UU Seven Principles under siege in the United States?

(2) If so, what can individual congregations and/or individual UU members do about it?

The participants quickly agreed that all of the Seven Principles are under attack by a significant minority of the electorate, elected officials and the media. The first principle, recognition of the inherent worth and dignity of every person was attacked in the recent electoral campaign, and the threat of continued attacks looms ominously ahead. Similar observations can be made for the rest of the Seven Principles.

Those present then turned to the question of what could be done. The most obvious answer was to support Justice Action Ministry actions which are already in place. Our congregation's long-standing support of the P.E.A.C.E organization is one obvious example. The proposed affiliation with the Black Lives Matter movement, showing Up for Racial Justice and the Sanctuary Movement are three additional JAM initiatives which merit congregational support and participation.

A second suggestion was to actively participate in the justice work of other organizations. The list is long, ranging from the UU FLORIDA JUSTICE ACTION COALITION to the LEAGUE OF WOMENT VOTERS. Partnering with other UU congregations in Florida was suggested.

Also highlighted was participation with the state legislature such as the annual UU trip to Tallahassee.

A third suggestion was to participate in and perhaps promote public demonstrations which stand up against violations of any of the UU Seven Principles

A fourth suggestion was to initiate a program of communications with local, state and federal decision-makers, both elected and appointed. Various means of doing that were discussed, ranging from letters, to telephone calls, to emails to visits to the local offices of elected officials.

None of the above suggestions will lead to future actions without the leadership of those few members of the congregation who have the passion and time to, "Make things happen!" You know who you are. WE INVITE YOU TO VOLUNTEER TO BE A LEADER IN ANY OF THE ABOVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONGRESSIONAL ACTION.

Hello PEACE Clergy and Justice Ministry Team Members!

I am writing to to provide you with an update on our work to powerfully confront Pharaoh's Narrative in Palm Beach County, as 2016 draws to a close.

Since we gathered for our Community Problems Assembly at the end of October , our three different issue committees have been very busy. All three have had strong issue committee meetings, with a total of 70 people in attendance. Here is a quick blurb about where each Committee is -

Youth Arrests - at our Assembly, we had 4 legislators publicly commit to co-sponsor our civil citations bill, and we reported that 4 others had put the same commitment in writing. Post-CPA, leaders from our Committee met with an additional two legislators - who both committed to co-sponsor - as well as Senator Negron. Senator Negron committed to make passage of our bill one of his priorities as Senate President.

In short - here in Palm Beach County, we've gotten 10 of our legislators to agree to co-sponsor the bill, and we've secured the support of the Senate President. And we'll be off and running come January, with a meeting lined up with our Public Defender Carey Haughwout (and more to be scheduled).

Homelessness - the Homelessness Committee has meetings SO FAR lined up in January with the Health Care District CEO, and our County Administrator - Verdenia Baker.

IDs & Deportations - leaders from our IDs & Deportations Committee will be meeting in January (so far) with high ranking officials from the Sheriff's Office. There is also a call scheduled with an expert from the Advancement Project in Washington, DC.

Each of your congregations will be having a powerful gathering of its Network Members in

either January or February, to prepare for having 3,000 on April 3rd - so we have the base to WIN around these issues we're working so hard around. In addition, each of these issue committees will be meeting again for a Committee Meeting - see below for the dates.

Despite all of this good hard work that continues, PEACE remains in a financially difficult place. If you or one of your Network Members have not finished your investment, PLEASE consider doing so before the year is out. Every investment counts for our Justice Ministry right now. Also - our online Convention Center fundraiser continues - we've collected \$820 to help cover the costs of the Convention Center on April 3rd. Consider making a contribution, and share the idea of contributing to this fundraiser with your friends and family over the holidays! Again, every little bit counts right now.

As always, investments can be mailed in (100 N. Palmway Lake Worth, FL 33460) OR they can be processed via credit card on our website -

http://www.peacebc.org/donate_home

Solar Co-ops are already running in Orange County, Sarasota, Tampa, Gainesville, Apopka, St. Pete and other areas. We are forming a Steering Committee to drive this process in our county. We would love other organizations to sign-on. There is no monetary requirement, but we would need a picture of your logo and permission to use the name of your organization in publicity.

The Palm Beach County Solar Co-op Steering Committee will hold 5-6 public meetings to inform the public and where attendees can join the co-op with no obligation to actually do an installation. From this group of interested people a review committee will be formed to determine the specifications of the solar systems to be installed and then review the bids of potential solar installers. One vetted installer will be selected and all members of the co-op will get a significant discount on their installation because of bulk purchasing and coordinated scheduling.

Florida Solar United Neighbors (FLSUN) is a non-profit which provides technical support such as a speaker and power point presentation at the public meetings, public relations templates, advertising the bid process to multiple vendors, providing technical specifications and writing the bid criteria. Please visit their web site at www.flsun.org

The first Steering Committee meeting will be on Monday, January 23, 2017, at 101 SW 4th Ave. in Boynton Beach (on the corner of South Seacrest Blvd), Boynton Beach at 6:30pm. Please RSVP so we can have enough chairs there. You can RSVP to Diane Marks at 702-1451 or dimarks@gate.net or Mike Fitzpatrick at [561-632-9578](tel:561-632-9578) or fitzpatrickm1971@gmail.com via call, text or e-mail.

We hope you will be as excited about increasing solar use in Palm Beach County as we are.

Diane Marks and Mike Fitzpatrick, Co-chairs

Never has the Unitarian Universalist message of hope and healing been more important than this moment. As we see more and more visitors coming to our congregations, we must tap into the energy that is emerging among us.



No matter the political divisions, we cannot stray from our first UU principle to value “the inherent worth and dignity of every person.”

Our role, as always, is to be a powerful voice for compassion and civil liberties. Our Association will continue to affirm and support the work of our UU congregations in building beloved community across this country.

I am heartened by the ways you and your congregation “show the love” in your community. If you have not already, please add your efforts to our [Show the Love map](#). Keep checking the [Show the Love Resources page](#); UUA staff are adding resources daily.

You’ll be hearing more from me, and other movement leaders, in the coming weeks and months regarding the ways each of us can play our part, including:

The week leading up to Inauguration Day (January 20) offers a [variety of ways you can show your support and solidarity](#) for an agenda of justice, human rights and compassion.

Our ninth annual [30 Days of Love](#) campaign launches on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Our Standing on the Side of Love team has developed a variety of [congregational resources](#).

I hope you will answer these calls to action. We will not sit on the sidelines in the face of public discourse that increasingly violates our second UU principle, standing for “justice, equity and compassion in [all] human relations.”

Together we will frame a renewed vision of an America that genuinely includes everyone. Our Unitarian Universalist principles and heritage ask no less of us.

In gratitude,



Rev. Peter Morales
President, Unitarian Universalist Association

Contact one of your Justice Action Leaders listed below to find out how to get involved.

Barbara Hatzfeld, [Dick Hattwick.](#), [C. J. McGregor](#)

[Judy Bonner](#)

Coordinator of Justice Action Ministry **JAM**

[Brian Johnson](#)

Editor of JAM News.