



UUJEC Summer Newsletter 2019 #1

Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community

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Building a Movement for a “Green New Deal” Conference

**Sunday, September 15 -Tuesday 17
Washington, DC**

Learn how climate change is an economic
justice issue

How do UU values inform our justice work?

**Learn how to lobby and then go to your
Senators’ offices.**

**How can you take this knowledge home and
work locally?**

www.UUJEC.com/gndconference

Scholarships Available

Tickets at

brownpapertickets.com/event/4255228



**A generous grant from the UU Fund for
Social Responsibility helps support the
conference and provide scholarships**

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Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice
Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth
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Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
All Souls Church
Side with Love

A panel discussion concerning the

Green New Deal

Much has been said and written about the Green New Deal. From what I have seen much of what has been discussed has addressed the political aspects of the Green New Deal. This is an important topic. The substance of the Green New Deal has not gotten as much attention. House Resolution 109, introduced by Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, lists the goals of the Green New Deal. These goals are captured into two broad categories, climate and economic.

Under the economic tent are goals of the creation of millions of good, high paying jobs; providing unprecedented levels of prosperity

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and economic security for all; counteracting systemic injustices toward indigenous peoples, communities of color, migrant communities, de-industrialized communities, depopulated rural communities, the poor, low-income workers, women, the elderly, the un-housed, people with disabilities and youth. Under the climate tent are goals of clean air and water, climate and community resiliency, healthy food, access to nature and a sustainable environment. There should be a robust discussion on all levels around the means to attain these goals.

Great places to begin these discussions on the goals and politics of the Green New Deal are our congregations and community groups. An excellent video to facilitate the discussion is “The Climate Crisis and the Green New Deal” by the Sanders Institute. It can be found at:

<https://www.sandersinstitute.com/blog/the-climate-crisis-and-the-green-new-deal>

The video is 1:15 long. The first 45 minutes is the panel discussion followed by 30 minutes of questions from the audience. The panel discussion alone should foster great conversation within your congregation or community group.

When I shared the video with my congregation’s social justice teams immediately everyone was enthused. The racial justice team wanted to be a part of the presentation. The environmental team wanted to be part of the presentation. The economic justice team wanted to be part of the presentation. Under one tent a broad brush of issues are addressed.

The panel consists of four experts and the moderator and expert Bill McKibben of 350°.org. Each panelist has a few minutes to share his, or her, perspective on the Green New Deal.

Panelist author Naomi Klein points out the Green New Deal has embedded justice in its approach toward dealing with the climate crisis. She notes that under one umbrella the issues addressed include the climate crisis, racial issues, Medicare for All, economic issues, and overall justice. Matt Nelson looks at the Green New Deal through the Latin-x community. He points out the climate crisis

is about migration, racial justice, and economic justice. He says it is an intersectional issue. Abdul El-Sayed explains that to understand the effects of the carbon emitting problem one has to look at the root.

The root, Abdul says, is in urban areas like Detroit. It is in this root where the Green New Deal can effectuate justice. Stephanie Kelton, an economist, explains that the US can afford a Green New Deal. She pointed out that the original New Deal was paid for at a time when the country was in an economic crisis. She makes it clear the country can afford the Green New Deal.

The Green New Deal is a work in progress. The House resolution expresses goals. The means to attain these goals need to be worked out over the next two years. It is through robust discussions at the local level that the means can be laid out. I encourage folks to show this video at their congregation and hopefully spark an ongoing dialogue.

(Submitted by Jim Black)

Know your Board

Rev. Judith Deutsch

UU Westside Congregation of Rio Rancho, NM



Judy Deutsch is a UU minister, emerita, who moved to Corrales, NM on June 28, 2017, after having lived in Sudbury, MA. For 51 years.
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Among the activities she engaged in while in Massachusetts were to serve as: chair of the committee that wrote the last 3 Massachusetts single-payer bills; board member of the James Luther Adams Foundation; the governor's appointee to the Sudbury Housing Authority; chair of First Parish's Faith in Action Committee; health care specialist for the LWVMA; and board member of Mass-Care (Massachusetts' campaign for single-payer health care.)

Since moving to New Mexico, she has become active in the Albuquerque working group against Citizens United, and involved in the group working for NM's Health Security Act and in the UU Westside Congregation, where she hopes to get the congregation aware of UUJEC.

Judy has been a member of the NAACP since the 50's and a member of Democratic Socialists of America since its inception. She has been a Unitarian and then a Unitarian Universalist since 1952.

Book Review



Justice on Earth

Manish Mishra-Marzetti and Jennifer Nordstrom, editors
Essay authors: a who's who of UU climate justice leaders.

Social Justice activist friends bought me this book and I'm so glad they did--it's a great UU roadmap for understanding Climate Justice. UUJEC was already working to build a coalition of UUs for a Green New Deal conference and lobby day on the Hill this September in Washington, DC.

Justice on Earth is a compilation of essays written by UUs. Essays cover a range of UU interests: Intersectionality, Faith and Environmental Justice, Movement building, Eco theology, cherishing our World, Resiliency, Coalition Building for Justice, Water Unites Us...and more.

Because the victims of environmental degradation and climate change are poor and oppressed peoples, those who are least able to weather the storm, our First Principle--the worth and dignity of every person--calls us to action.

UUJEC is charged with dealing with climate change with an economic justice lenses. And to do anything about this injustice, we need to join forces with virtually every justice movement--without a functioning democracy, we're doomed. Without scientists and environmental justice, we'll never find our way. Without LGBTQ, racial, ethnic and religious justice, we know we'll leave people behind.

To me, one of the most meaningful essays was by Rev. Adam Robersmith, "Cherishing our World: Avoiding Despair in Environmental Justice Work". Environmental justice, says Robersmith, needs to be approached with love. Our Universalist ancestors believed we should love the hell out of people, literally. Scaring people into not sinning with hell and damnation never really worked. Scaring people into caring for the earth won't either. So, we need to model loving the earth for all its bounty and beauty.

Justice on Earth is our common read for this church year.

(Submitted by Terry Lowman)

UUJEC Board at General Assembly 2019 in Spokane, WA

Rev. Dr. Adam Robersmith spoke to us at our
annual retreat
this year in
Spokane.



Adam is the
minister of
the
Universalist
Church of
West Hartford
in West
Hartford, CT.

Adam addressed the Green New Deal as a biology major who understands the planet in ways that allowed him to speak about the elements of our planet. As we listened, Adam talked about the changes we all could make and how capitalism plays a role in the health of the planet. Rev. Dr. Robersmith also took questions and engaged all of us in a very intimate and welcoming way.

Submitted by Christopher Sims

What we do: UUJEC strives to create a world of justice, equity, and compassion where the inherent worth and dignity of every person is recognized and affirmed as set forth in our Unitarian Universalist Principles.