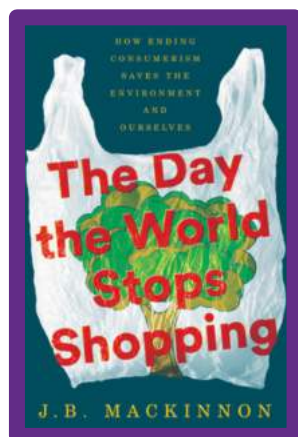




UUJEC News & Views: Spring 2022

| newsletter@uujec.org | Sally Jane Gellert, editor

Upcoming Web Seminars: Join us, 2nd & 4th Thursdays!



Thursday, April 14 Discussion: *The Day the World STOPS Shopping*

YOU ARE INVITED to the first session discussion on topics raised in the book *The Day the World Stops Shopping* by J.B. MacKinnon.

Voluntary simplicity vs. overconsumption is not a new subject or personal challenge, but it has new urgency—and it raises the question, “Are we ‘haves’ willing to leave the ‘water’ of unexamined consumerism to swim toward a lifestyle of relinquishment to save livelihood on this planet? And, thereby, to discover new bounty?”

We’ll begin with “The Prologue; We must stop shopping but we can’t stop shopping,” and the five chapters of “Part I: First Days.” We ask each participant to bring their beginning thoughts on the subject, some phrases and surprises from the reading that are worth noting and sharing, and what challenges this subject raises for you. Many libraries have the book.

Bring a journal if you’d like to use this opportunity to answer the questions, “What does the 1.5°C temperature rise deadline of 2030 ask of me and mine?” and “What can we do to build a movement of UUs to save natural life as we know it?”

Our first meeting, Thursday, April 14, 8 P.M. EDT (7/6/5 P.M. across the continent) will be facilitated by [Rev. Lucy Hitchcock](#). We will decide then how and when to continue.

FYI: 2001 Statement of Conscience: [Responsible Consumption Is Our Moral Imperative](#)

To register for the book discussion: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZY1fuygrD8sH9GizTCR-LLxPoTBWPpobSB> t:

Thursday, April 28 *The Condition of Cornbelt Streams and a New Path Forward*

[Chris Jones](#) will discuss how his career experience led him to view clean water as an issue of justice, and his ideas for a new agricultural production system to achieve desired environmental outcomes.

Chris Jones is a Research Engineer with IIHR Hydroscience and Engineering at the University of Iowa. His research focuses on water quality in agricultural watersheds of the US cornbelt. He has a bachelor's degree in chemistry and biology from Simpson College, and a PhD in Analytical Chemistry from Montana State University. He has previously worked at the Des Moines Water Works and the Iowa Soybean Association. See Chris' blog post: "Iowa is Addicted to Cornography" to get an idea of how enlightening his work is.

Spring Social Witness Convening of the Commission on Social Witness

Learn, share, collaborate, and act on these recent statements:



• “Undoing Systemic White Supremacy: A Call to Prophetic Action”



• “Defend and Advocate with Transgender, Nonbinary, and Intersex Communities”



• “Stop Voter Suppression and Partner for Voting Rights and a Multiracial Democracy”

• “The COVID-19 Pandemic: Justice. Healing. Courage.”

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

→ 7 pm to 9:30 pm ET | 4 pm to 6:30 pm PT
bit.ly/SpringConvening2022

[Showyourstripes.info](https://showyourstripes.info) translates climate change in geographic areas into shades of blue (cooling) and red (heating) from 1910 (or earlier) through 2021.

UUJEC Goes to GA!

Our Workshops

Faith Calls Us On: Faith, Religion, and Reparations

For Reparation to be successful, our society must understand its necessity, because the truth of Chattel Enslavement has not been told. Now, there are political forces emerging, to keep that truth hidden. The session will include information about UU collaboration projects with N'COBRA and Reparations work in Philadelphia, and Evanston, Illinois, and encourage similar projects elsewhere.

Ecological Civilization: Earth, Religion, and the Human Future (David Korten)

On a path to self-extinction, humans face a defining choice. Transition to a civilization dedicated to care for one another and the living Earth, or bear the consequences. What might that future look like? What might be the role of religious institutions?

Our Actions of Immediate Witness Act for a Livable Climate

The IPCC told us that advancing climate change must be considered **CODE RED** for Humanity and requires urgent action in order to keep global temperature rise at a livable 1.5°C at the turn of the century. Governmental action at scale must be urged by UUs without delay, including the need to effectively address the fact the Department of Defense is the world's largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions and that peace and diplomacy must outweigh the call to militarism and wars if we are to maintain a livable planet.

Education: Meet the Moment

Four major concerns for education are making schools safe, healthy, and accessible for all; supporting early childhood development; encouraging postsecondary education for all age groups; and respecting the needs of all education workers.

Reparations

Text not finalized, concepts similar to our workshop.

Collaboration

At UUJEC we make every attempt to work with other justice organizations, both UU affiliated and unaffiliated. In December, UUJEC worked with UUs for Social Justice in Washington, DC. We made calls to several US Senators in support of the PRO Act. We'll be making more calls going forward. —and we invite you to join us, particularly in Arizona, Alaska, W. Virginia and Virginia—states being most heavily lobbied by our AFL-CIO allies.

Why are unions important to UUJEC? Because unions are the only grassroots organizations who can compete, although weakly, with our oligarchs. Unions have been getting weaker and weaker as our wealthy corporate leaders have lobbied both State and Federal lawmakers to weaken laws and enforcement. And laws to protect wealth have gotten stronger and stronger.

Like any human endeavour, unions are not perfect. However, unions embrace our values—protecting

USPS Gets Needed Relief

From [Inequality.org](https://inequality.org) via [Healthcare-NOW!](https://healthcare-now.org) E-mail:

In a rare moment of bipartisanship, Congress has approved a historic bill to reform the U.S. Postal Service. Why is this legislation such a big deal?

The centerpiece of the Postal Service Reform Act is the repeal of a financial burden that has imposed

Aside from special COVID relief support, the Postal Service has financed its operations entirely through revenue from products and services, without taxpayer subsidies.

extraordinary costs on the U.S. Postal Service since 2006. That year Congress passed the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (PAEA), which required USPS to set aside an average of \$5.6 billion every year for 10 years to pre-fund its

postretirement health care costs decades into the future. This financial burden applies to no other federal agency or private corporation.

USPS made required annual contributions to this fund for the first four years, but then stopped because the high cost threatened their ability to fulfill their universal service obligation.

Continue reading at <https://inequality.org/great-divide/why-the-postal-service-reform-act-is-a-big-deal>

From Healthcare-NOW!:

"The APWU (American Postal Workers Union) and labor and community partners, including Healthcare NOW, have been fighting for over 15 years to win this legislation. Just more proof that even if it takes some time, when we fight, WE WIN!"

We're pleased to support Healthcare-NOW! & the APWU.

the oppressed: all races, women, LGBTQ and immigrants. If we care about social justice, UUs are wise to encourage expansion of unions. With the PRO Act, Protecting the Right to Organize, we will give union organizers tools to fight corporate union busting—which is technically illegal but not enforced.

From Wikipedia: "The PRO Act would amend the National Labor Relations Act of 1935 (also known as the Wagner Act), the Taft-Hartley Act, and the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959 (also known as the Landrum-Griffin Act)." Work and labor had changed a lot since 1935.

We now have gig workers who have virtually no protection in the US—like they do in other countries. We've allowed our tech companies to circumvent laws meant to protect workers by just calling employees contractors, whether or not it is true.

| Terry Lowman, cochairperson

Call for Applicants

UUJEC Economic Justice Leadership Award

UUJEC, in its commitment to celebrate and support economic justice, is seeking active congregations or justice committees to apply for its biannual Economic Justice Leadership Award. The award will be presented to one UU congregation actively working for economic justice through systemic change (policy work, political activism, addressing inequality, climate justice, etc.). We want to hear about your work: big or small, complex or focused.

The application contains multiple questions each to be answered in about 400 words or less (2,000 characters). The deadline to apply is May 1st at midnight. The award recipient will be selected and notified by June 1st with the award presentation scheduled remotely or in person for Summer 2022. The recipient will also have an opportunity to share their best practices as a Featured Group in a UUJEC webinar in the fall of 2022.

In addition to the award recipient, all congregations applying will be recognized with a commitment from UUJEC to help promote their work widely. If you have any questions or difficulty completing the award application online, please send an e-mail to Rachel at rachel@uujec.org. To view the tremendous work of our 2016 and 2018 applicants, and to apply, please visit the award web page: <http://uujec.org/ejs>.

News about Health

The pandemic continues.

At the end of December, more than 800,000 Americans were reported dead because of the disease. The UUJEC responded to the crisis at the 2021 General Assembly by developing an Action of Immediate Witness in support of Medicare for All. In 2022, the UUJEC's work for medical care reform continue.



Support Medicare for All

Is called for in the 2021 Action of Immediate Witness, and something the UUJEC has been doing for some time. One of the organizations that has been leading the way since at least the negotiations that led to PP-ACA (a.k.a. Obamacare) in 2010 is Healthcare-NOW!, and we encourage people to check out their conference on April 2nd and 3rd. Registration is open as this issue is published, we invite members interested in health care to our postconference discussion—drop a note to healthcare@uujec.org for info on joining.

GA Planning with the UUA Board

The UUA board is hosting a series of zoom sessions for those who will be attending GA, or interested in advising their delegates. Look for registration links here: <https://bit.ly/3KlfWrl>, and join the conversation.

Discussion of Proposed Business Resolutions & Going Deeper into Understanding Proposed Bylaw Changes (formerly separate sessions)

**Saturday, April 9 at 4PM EDT / 1PM EDT, or
Wednesday, April 13 at 7PM EDT / 4PM PDT**

In-Depth Look at the GA 2022 Rules of Procedure

Tuesday, April 19 at 7PM EDT / 4PM PDT

What Does Multiplatform Mean for this Year's General Assembly?

Thursday, May 26 at 7PM EDT / 4PM PDT

General Assembly 2022 Business Orientation

**Wednesday, June 1 at 7PM EDT / 4PM PDT,
or Saturday, June 4 at 4PM EDT / 1PM EDT**

Thanks to the UUA board for setting up these sessions so GA discussions can focus on substance, not process!

A Letter from the UUA President

I wanted to share this most recent statement from the UUA yesterday, condemning the invasion and calling for support for Ukraine.: <https://www.uua.org/pressroom/press-releases/supporting-ukraine>

It may not address all you list but we recognize there will be opportunity to further comment.

Indeed, we have been condemning these attacks through statements on social media since the invasion began. We have a few new staff on our Communications team and realized today that these statements had not been featured on the UUA.org front page. That was an oversight that I hope we have clarified.

It may be helpful to know that the UU@UN is fully a part of the UUA and we did look to Bruce Knotts and our

International office to provide helpful insight and rapid response about the situation. We understood this as part of our UUA response. Additionally, we have been in partnership with the UUSC to be sure to amplify their response and work.

In situations of crisis and emergency aid in particular, we are intentionally in conversation with the UUSC about who is better positioned to respond and then throw our support behind whoever is taking the lead (UUA or UUSC). The UUSC, as the key UU international human rights organization, was best position to respond. Our commitment to support each other rather than be in competition does mean that we can move slower to communicate but I believe that it also strengthens our ability to respond not just with statements but with ongoing support to address these situations.

Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, President, UUA

Letters!

UUJEC gets requests from various organizations to sign on to a variety of letters, and independently-active board members often suggest sign-ons for consideration by the UUJEC. Here we list the ones we have signed since the last newsletter:

From **People's Water Project**, a letter to the EPA requesting that the agency issue guidance and take other actions regarding the distribution of new water infrastructure funding provided by the bipartisan infrastructure law, in particular in the State Revolving Fund programs: <https://peopleswaterproject.org/>

From **Haitian Bridge Alliance** (haitianbridge.org) in commemoration of the 12-year anniversary of Haiti's devastating earthquake on January 12, 2010, a letter calling on the Biden Administration to halt deportations. Another anniversary that year: on January 13, 2010, the day after the earthquake, the U.S. government lived up to its own ideals and international law by halting all deportations for over a year.

Another letter regarding Haiti, from **UUSC**, written to the U.S. State Department. It begins,

"As faith-based organizations from a variety of religious and spiritual traditions, we call on the U.S. government to support Haitian citizens' right to shape their own solutions to their nation's crises. Our organizations address a wide range of issues, from immigration to foreign policy to broad faith-based social justice. We see deep connections between the treatment of Haitians seeking asylum at our borders and our government's history and current prac-

tices in our relationship to Haiti. Therefore, we call on you to rescind official U.S. support for un-elected Prime Minister Ariel Henry and allow for the inclusive pathway towards restoring democracy laid out in the Montana-PEN Accord by a diverse cross-section of Haitian civil society and political leaders. We also call on the Biden administration to immediately cease mass deportations to Haiti, which only contribute to the current suffering and instability in a country vastly unprepared to receive and re-integrate thousands of people."

Full letter: <https://bit.ly/faith4haitidemocracy>

We signed a **Coalition of Human Needs** letter urging Congress "to enact omnibus FY 2022 appropriations legislation including all twelve subcommittee bills." The letter stated that "[continued flat funding in the face of growing needs would be irresponsibly harmful. Inadequate funding over the past decade has caused many human needs programs to lose ground. Whether serving health, education and training, child welfare, nutrition, substance use disorders, housing or other needs, appropriated programs cannot meet today's demands with yesterday's inadequate funding."

We signed a **National Nurses United** letter to support healthcare for HIV in the Black community,

UUJEC has endorsed **Build Back Fossil Free** (<https://buildbackfossilfree.org/>), which has run a series of campaigns, including People vs. Fossil Fuel in October 2021 and a 2022 Letter to Pres. Biden.

We also signed a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regarding power shut-offs. [Write icons created by Freepik - Flaticon](#)