



UUJEC Spring Newsletter 2018

Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community

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Insist on Justice! Resist Inequality! Conference in Evanston, IL April 21, 2018

Confirmed speakers include:



Chuck Collins
Institute for Policy Studies

Dr. Fannie Rushing
Chicago SNCC History Project

Alan Mills
Uptown People's Law Center



Fred Tsao
Illinois Coalition for
Immigrant & Refugee Rights

Rev. Eileen Wiviott
Unitarian Church
of Evanston, IL

Ralph Martire
Center for Tax &
Budget Accountability

Our keynote speaker will be author **Chuck Collins**, who will discuss the pivotal role played by social and economic equality in building a more just society. Chuck Collins is the author of *Born on Third Base* and *99 to 1*, which detail how government policy adds to US social imbalance and what we can do about it. He is the Senior Scholar at the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, DC and has worked with William Gates, Sr., and others to increase social responsibility and support for the inheritance tax among the wealthy.

Register to Join US!

His new book, *Is Inequality in America Irreversible?* will be available this spring.

After a welcome by Evanston's minister **Rev. Eileen Wiviott**, join the panel of Advocates led by **Ralph Martire** of the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability and **Alan Mills** of the Uptown People's Law Center to learn how to motivate volunteers. **Fred Tsao** of the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights and **Dr. Fannie Rushing** of the Chicago SNCC History Project will add their perspectives on how to win on the issues.

Over lunch we'll also have the chance to share ideas and learn from each other as we develop our own plans for the future.

This event is funded in part by the Unitarian Universalist Funding Program and the Unitarian Church of Evanston and its Susan Walker Fund for Social Justice.

Scholarships and UU home hospitality are available. For questions or to request more information, please contact the planning committee at events@uujec.com.

Go to <https://uujec.com/Resistinequality> to sign up.

Webinars

April Webinar: Dr. Margaret Flowers on Health Care



April 19 8:00 pm EDT

Margaret Flowers, M.D., is a pediatrician and mother from Baltimore, MD.

Margaret left medical practice in 2007 to advocate full-time for single payer healthcare. She served as Congressional Fellow for Physicians for a National Health Program and is on the board of Healthcare-Now!.

She is co-director of ItsOurEconomy.us

She has organized and participated in protests for health care, peace and economic justice which have included arrests for nonviolent resistance.

Join us on Thursday, April 19th, at 8 p.m. EDT to hear from Margaret about Health Justice and Inequality. She might report back from the Single Payer Action Camp, "Health Over Profit for Everyone" in Washington, DC April 7 – 10, which she is organizing in partnership with the Backbone Campaign. This is the first Single Payer Action Camp to build participant's skills in strategy, messaging, and direct action to win National Improved Medicare for All. The camp includes workshops on tools for developing strategic campaigns, how to make your message visible, creating media, nonviolent direct action and more, putting those skills to use on Monday and Tuesday through actions in Washington, DC.

Find information on all the UUJEC webinars at <https://ujec.com/webinars>

A Conversation with Chuck Collins February Webinar



UUJEC, in partnership with UUs for Social Justice, featured Chuck Collins for our February webinar. Chuck is an active member of the UUJEC Advisory Board. We appreciate his enduring commitment to justice and equality and welcome his participation in our webinar series. On the February 8th webinar, Chuck shared initiatives that cities and communities, from Massachusetts to California, are carrying out to reverse inequality.

4 Ways to Get Our UU Voices Heard in Washington March Webinar

Our March Webinar featured UU's for Social Justice (UUSJ). Lavona Grow, UUSJ Advocacy Oversight Committee Chair, shared ideas and resources needed to influence our US senators' and representatives to act and to help our congregations to raise their UU voices to make a difference in Washington. The UUSJ Write Here! Write Now! letter-writing campaign and other ways for individual UU's and congregations to take action in the upcoming elections were discussed.

The Interfaith March for Peace and Justice is this month!



On April 29 people across the country will be joining the Interfaith March for Peace & Justice to promote equal justice and religious liberty for all. The organizers are excited about the interest and commitment from UUs

nationwide hope to continue the very productive dialogue that began in January. As we enter the final weeks pre-march, questions and curiosity may remain on the nuts and bolts of organizing an event in your area. Columbus March organizers Greg Davis and Michael Greenman would like to offer their feedback and resources to help. For ideas on the organizing process and assembly guidelines, visit <https://uujec.com/interfaithMarch>

Get to Know Your Board



Lucy Hitchcock served as UU minister in North Dakota, Oregon, Washington, and Florida, and in the UUA Extension Department, retiring in 2008. She is a founding member of UUJEC, served on the

board off and on, and has organized UU actions for the WTO protests in Seattle, FTAA protests in Miami and many conferences. Her spiritual practice is the work of economic justice. Current commitments are agriculture here and in Senegal, West Africa. Lucy is Chair of the UUJEC Membership Committee and can be reached at membership@uujec.com

Have you read a book on economic justice that you would like to review and share with UUJEC membership? Contact uujec@uujec.com for more information.

Book Reviews

Captured: The Corporate Infiltration of American Democracy (2017), by Senator Sheldon Whitehouse and Melanie Wachtell Stinnett

CAPTURED



Captured tells the story from the belly of the beast. To have a sitting senator dare to speak truth to his colleagues and to us about the subterfuge that has taken over Congress, the Supreme Court and the mind of the President is *hopeful*, a word I rarely use of late.

I say "the mind of the President" because they write that in 2009, Donald Trump, Sr. and Jr.; Eric; and Ivanka all signed an ad directed at President Obama saying,

"We support your effort to ensure meaningful and effective measures to control climate change, an immediate challenge facing the United States and the world today. Please don't postpone the Earth. If we fail to act now, it is scientifically irrefutable that there will be catastrophic and irreversible consequences for humanity and our planet."

During his campaign for president, he was persuaded to claim, "climate change is a hoax", presumably to help him get elected.

The book details the methods used by corporations, their benefactors (including dark money), and the Republican Party to capture the Court, Elections (Citizens United), Regulatory Agencies, and the Civil Jury, the last of which was new info for me. It spends good time on the issue of climate change. While it covers corporate power issues we may already understand, it does so clearly, persuasively, and usefully in one volume as we approach another election.

(Review by Lucy Hitchcock)

Economic Justice Leadership Award

UUJEC, in its commitment to celebrate and support economic justice, is seeking activist 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, etc.). We'd like to hear about your work, however big or small, complex or focused. The application contains four questions to be answered in 300 words or less. The deadline to apply is **May 18th** at midnight.

The award recipient will be selected and notified by **June 8** with the award presentation scheduled for the UUJEC Annual Meeting, held at General Assembly.

The award can be accepted by someone else on your behalf if you will not be attending GA. All other congregations completing the application will be recognized.

To view the tremendous work of our 2016 applicants, AND TO APPLY, please visit our webpage: <http://uujec.com/ejs>

The 2016 "UUJEC Economic Justice Leadership Award" was presented to members of First Unitarian Society of Madison. Madison, Wisconsin at our annual meeting in Columbus Ohio.



If you have any questions, please contact
uujec@uujec.com

Thank you to the Live Oak UU Church of Cedar Park



Thank you to the Live Oak UU Church of Cedar Park, Texas, for the resource development award we received via your Endowment Committee.

In fulfillment of our grant from the **Live Oak UU Church Endowment Fund**, UUJEC is building a continentwide *Healthcare Justice Activist List* to build a resource bank for UUs and others who are working to achieve universal basic healthcare. To be most useful, we want to include links to legislation, organizations and actions, both national in scope and in as many states as possible, with special attention to underserved communities.

If this is a priority for you, please join our working group by visiting our webpage to sign up <https://uujec.com/healthcareJustice>. There, you can connect to our regularly updated healthcare resources and the working document we have developed, to which you are welcome to add information. You can also reach out to our Healthcare Justice Committee with any questions or comments you may have using this email address: healthcare@uujec.com.

As we continue to build upon our resource base, thanks to the generosity of Live Oak, we want to ensure that we are meeting the needs of our members and friends by offering the tools and support necessary for us all to progress in our economic justice work. Please share your thoughts with us by completing our brief survey.

You can find it here:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XHQGTG39>

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.