



UUJEC Winter Newsletter 2018

Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community

Karla Chew, Editor. Inquiries to: newsletter@uujec.com

Save the Date UUJEC/UCE Mini-Conference

Insist on Justice! Resist Inequality!

Chicago area Mini-Conference April 21, 2018

Unitarian Church of Evanston (UCE), Evanston, IL

Saturday, April 21, 2018 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

"We're organizing for the greater good. Come share ideas and best practices with leaders in the fight for income equality, racial justice and immigrant rights."



After a keynote speech delivered by author Chuck Collins on the pivotal role played by social and economic equality in building a more just society, a panel of activists will

share what they've learned about how to encourage more folks to join the movement, how to inspire volunteers and how to work in coalitions. 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.

For further details and registration, visit our conference website <http://uujec.com/Resistinequality>. More information will be available in February. If you have any questions, please contact the planning committee at uujec@uujec.com

Article by Jane Bannor,
UUJEC Treasurer



Webinar January 10th

"Are You Ready for the Interfaith March for Peace & Justice?"

On January 10th at 8 pm eastern, join UUJEC, UUs



for Social Justice and organizers of the 2018 Interfaith March for Peace & Justice to learn how you can participate and organize in your community. Information

can be found on our webpage <http://uujec.com/interfaithMarch>

The Interfaith March for Peace & Justice is a peaceful, non-partisan event that will take place nationwide on April 29, 2018. The purpose of this event is to re-affirm the principles of equal justice and religious liberty for all.

Work for Justice!

Northwest UU Justice Network and Washington UU Voices for Justice seek an energetic, committed manager to lead the evolution of these two organizations into one new, more effective, more inclusive state action network for UUs engaged in justice work in Washington and beyond. This quarter-time program manager position, grant-funded as of January 2018, will remain open until filled. For information, please email DD Hilke, Executive Director, Northwest UU Justice Network at NWuuJN.Exec@gmail.com

Health Care as a Right

Healthcare-NOW headquarters: the Massachusetts State Senate **moved the state closer to implementing single payer healthcare** by commissioning a single payer study - with a twist.

The Senate passed an amendment that charges the state's Center for Health Information and Analysis to include in their annual reports a comparison of what the state would be spending on healthcare under a single-payer plan, with what it actually spent the previous year.



What sets this amendment apart from other single-payer studies is that if the Center finds, for any of the years 2016 through 2018, that healthcare spending would be lower while covering everyone under a single-payer system, the Center then has to develop an in-depth single-payer proposal that it would introduce to the State Legislature for consideration.

Next the bill moves to the House, where the amendment can be introduced or included in the final legislation in conference committee.

As past Mass-Care (Massachusetts campaign for single payer) legislative chair, I am wary of how the benchmark will be set, although I agree that this is a step forward.

For more information, visit these weblinks:
<https://www.healthcare-now.org/sb2202/>

<http://www.pressherald.com/2017/11/10/massachusetts-to-study-cost-of-single-payer-health-insurance/>

Judy Deutsch,
UUJEC Board Member



Get to Know Your Board: Terry Lowman, UUJEC Co-Chair



For Terry Lowman, who retired in 2013 from a long career in business, justice was always a passion. Married to Mark Kassis as soon as same sex marriage was legal in Iowa, he and Mark parented four children, two from Terry's marriage to a Cuban woman and two adopted from Peru. They also have four granddaughters 18 months to 9 years old.

They owned three restaurants, which were often venues for charity fund raising and liberal political events. Terry was born into UCC, lost god and found UU in 1989. Terry has volunteered in many UU related causes, from AMOS, the local congregationally based community organizing, starting Iowa's UU state advocacy network (IUUWAN), the UU Funding Program's Social Responsibility grant panel and summer of 2014 joining UUJEC as co-chair.

Terry is the UUJEC Liaison for State Legislative Networks (CUUSAN) and chair of the Nominating Committee. He is a member of UU Congregation of Miami and First Unitarian Church of Des Moines, IA.



Contact Terry at TerryLeeLowman@gmail.com

Sharing Resources for Interfaith Work in Door County, Wisconsin

The resources available on the Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community's website, UUJEC.com, are easy to use and can have a significant impact. I know I have said this before but every time I employ the resources it strikes me how useful these resources are.



These resources spur robust discussions around income inequality. When I presented the TED Talks at our Fellowship which can be found at the UUJEC website I came off as an expert. I guess the audience blended my identity with the TED speaker. For this kudo I spent a few minutes setting up the big screen TV and hooking up my laptop. The participants at the webinar were amazed at the coast to coast discussion. The latest minimal effort activity is the Shoreline UU Study Series on income inequality. This study series can be found in the drop-down menu at the UUJEC website under escalating inequality.

The Shoreline UU Study Series was put together by the Shoreline Washington Unitarian Universalist congregation. It is a six-week study series which is really a "paint by numbers" workshop. The readings, YouTube videos, TED Talks and scripted questions to generate discussion are all laid out for the facilitators.



All the facilitators need to be is enthusiastic about the topic and follow the outline. The study series begins with a very short reading from Adam Smith, the father of capitalism, and progresses through the income gap as it exists, its consequences, and remedies. The study series is informative and easily understood.

When the idea of presenting the Shoreline Study Series was brought up at our Fellowship's just economic team's meeting it was suggested that we try to involve other faith communities. We asked to make a presentation at the local ministerial alliance, which was granted. It was interesting how the topic of income inequality was a concern for all the ministers present at the meeting.

From this presentation a group was formed to plan the logistics of presenting the Shoreline Study Series. The group now consists of pastors from the local Episcopal, Lutheran, and Moravian churches. Other ministers from other faith communities have expressed interest. With little effort this winter the Shoreline Study Series will be presented to a widely varied audience. We won't be simply preaching to the choir at our UU Fellowship. Rather we will be discussing the topic of income inequality with a wide range of faith communities.

So, the value of being a UUJEC member and utilizing the resources available on its website is significant. I encourage you to explore the many resources available on the UUJEC website and use these resources in your community. The Shoreline Study Series can be found on the UUJEC webpage: <http://uujec.com/Escalating-Inequality/Shoreline-UU-Study-Series>

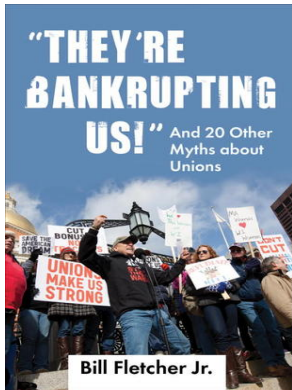
Article by Jim Black,
UUJEC Board Member



Book Review: What We're Reading

"They're Bankrupting Us!"

And 20 Other Myths about Unions by Bill Fletcher Jr.



"They're Bankrupting Us" is a great resource for people unfamiliar with unions to understand their inner workings. Turns out, once you stomp out the myths and replace them with the facts, unions aren't that scary after all.

As a unionist for more than two decades, I was pleased to see a new take on an old problem: how do you convey the benefits of unions to people who may have very little exposure to them? The mainstream has all but dismissed our very active presence and participation in the country, unless it's Labor Day.

Fletcher's book also helps advance the understanding of collective bargaining, solidarity and workplace rights to union members who are new or unclear of our history. And, it gives us tools to defend the value of unions during conversations with that brother-in-law at the holiday dinners, you know the one. He blames unions for every problem we have but can't explain why.

An interesting myth in the book for me personally was Myth 6. "Unions were good once, but we don't need them any longer." I've had many conversations busting this myth myself. Sure, we have weekends and time off, "for what we will" as unions demanded so long ago. But we also have 12-hour swing shifts and comp-time policies inching their way into normalcy to undermine our quality of life and our time off the job. Workers will always encounter struggles achieving dignity at work. But without unions, without a seat at the table, workers will certainly be on the menu.

Reviewed by Rachel Bennett Steury



Webinar Resources

Available for Your Justice Work

As we proceed with our monthly webinar series, we continue to be inspired by our passionate guest speakers who inform, motivate and compel us to move toward a more just world. Author and UU Activist Chuck Collins, Tax Policy Consultant Will Rice and Magaly Licolli – Executive Director, Northwest Arkansas Worker Justice Center and Ahmed Ali – Executive Director, Greater Minnesota Worker Center have joined us recently for frank discussions on our economy and our responsibility as faithful advocates for justice.

We seek to further develop our relationships within our UU community and throughout the larger world as we work in solidarity to transform our values into action. Our collaboration with UUs for Social Justice and individual congregations on our webinar outreach have broadened our impact and activist resources. Join us for monthly inspiration!

Webinar resources and our webinar schedule can be found on our page: <http://uujec.com/webinars>

Sign up to receive email alerts by registering on our website: <http://uujec.com/uujecRegistration>

Rachel Bennett Steury, UUJEC Administrator



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.

Join US! <http://uujec.com/membership>