



UUJEC News & Views: Autumn 2022



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

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

Thurs., Sept. 8: UU Climate Actions

Ideas for Organizing an Effective Climate Action Task Force in Your Congregation

with Mary Paynter and Sheri Jacobson from Saltwater UU Church in Des Moines, Wash., and Lee Anne Wilson, Jeri Neal, Allison Brundy, and Erv Klaas from the UU Fellowship of Ames, Iowa. We love hearing stories of what works to solve the problems of our day. Climate crisis is upon us—preventing its further escalation has become urgent as calamities mount. Two congregations in different areas of the country have organized, with local action, to address causes and prevention of our climate crisis. Other congregations are looking for effective ways to develop their own action plans, involve their members and work with other organizations to make a difference. UUJEC hopes that a series of webinars will spark lively dialogue, share useful “how-tos”, and support one another as we address this increasing challenge to our planet and beloved hometowns.

Thurs., Sept. 22: Healthcare-NOW!

Healthcare Census: Because Our Health Counts!

With Gillian Mason, Director of Communications and Development at Healthcare-NOW! Gillian worked for 12 years in labor and community organizing in Boston, Mass., before relocating to Texas and joining the Healthcare NOW team in 2021. The Healthcare Census is a major campaign to talk to our friends, family, neigh-

bors, and coworkers about the healthcare crisis in this country this year. We know that talking—and most important, really listening—to people is the only way to better understand their issues and invite them to join us in fighting for Medicare for All.

The Census interview is a 15–20 minute survey about issues people face in getting or paying for medical treatment, and it's a great way to start a conversation about health care. The answers can remain anonymous, or respondents can give their contact info. Interviews can be conducted over the phone, via zoom, or in person with COVID safety precautions in place—whatever works best for you!

Join us to learn more about the Healthcare Census—open through Dec.—and how you and your congregation can get involved with the work of building our movement through compassion and active listening.

Thurs., Oct. 13: Harvest Season!

The UUJEC will celebrate the harvest season with a “food justice” webinar. Food prices have been rising during recent months. The impact of climate change has made food production and distribution more difficult in some areas. How can congregations celebrate the harvest season in appropriate ways? How can congregations encourage “food justice”?

Thurs., Oct. 27: Mutual Aid Is Rooted In Reality

Unitarian Universalists have rediscovered mutual-aid projects while organizing for economic and environmental justice. Mutual aid projects are voluntary, participatory, empowering, and egalitarian arrangements that provide essential goods and services. In some of the African-American mosques and churches, mutual-aid programs have existed for several decades. Indigenous peoples developed cooperative economics before the European colonists arrived. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the UUJEC presented a mutual-aid workshop at the 2021 General Assembly.

| Continues on page 2, column 2

HEALTHCARE CENSUS 2022

GET TRAINED!



UU the Vote for Climate, Democracy, and More

For the next few weeks, one of the best things that the UUJEC can do for economic and environmental justice is to support the UUA in its get-out-the-vote campaign. (There are other organizations doing similar nonpartisan work, and individuals may choose to work with a partisan group.)

In many areas, voter suppression is happening. Voter registration and voting have become increasingly difficult in Florida (and in some other states). Congregations will do a lot of good by providing assistance where it's needed.

At the very least, congregations can help their members register and vote. Provide computer assistance, transportation, childcare, or whatever is needed, in order to register voters and in order to help them on Election Day. Poll workers are also needed.

It's the local elections that are often especially important.

Climate change is one concern. At the local level, there's also a need to defeat school-board candidates, judges, and other local leaders who are racist, homophobic, sexist, and/or hostile to immigrants and homeless people. School-lunch programs, safety programs, and mental-health services need to be improved. Maybe we can improve local law enforcement.

Why are the Trump people so successful in politics? One reason: They know how to influence local elections. If your state has election officials running for office this year, do your research and vote accordingly. No election is unimportant; they all have consequences.

| Bob Murphy



Medicare for All 101 with NNU

National Nurses United is holding monthly "Medicare for All 101" calls—if you are new to the fight, want a refresher, or simply want to check in with the latest efforts, check [this link](https://bit.ly/3q12MYl): <https://bit.ly/3q12MYl>

The next call is set for Thursday, September 20th, at 5:30 P.M. PDT (6:30/7:30/8:30 going east).



UUJEC board member Bob Murphy (center with sunflowers) in community garden in Saint Petersburg, Florida.

For October 27th, we will return to the mutual-aid conversation. Our webinar will introduce climate-justice, mental-health, and food-justice programs that congregations can use. These are programs that have been tested during recent months and they're "rooted in reality". It's information that's needed in every congregation and cluster.

There are many possibilities in mutual-aid work. What does mutual aid mean for Unitarian Universalists? Personal and social wellness are encouraged. All of the Unitarian Universalist Association's principles are recognized and affirmed. The emphasis is on direct action and on being the change that Unitarian Universalists want to see in the world.

Mutual aid won't solve all of the problems in the global economy. However, mutual aid is essential to creating and defending economic and social justice.

Are you working on Reparations? We want you to join us!

UUJEC sponsored the Action of Immediate Witness *Anti-racism & Reparations through Restorative Justice* at GA this past June, and we are working to create and curate curriculum materials for putting it into practice. What would be most helpful to you as you bring the subject to your community?

Join our monthly Zoom discussions—
we'd love to have you on the team!

Please e-mail Carl McCargo at ilike2travel@comcast.net.

Labor Day Celebration

Imagine a Labor Day weekend that supports working people and labor union organizing. Labor Day was once an important celebration for economic justice. Labor unions marched in major cities and religious organizations were helpful.

UUJEC works with congregations, labor unions, and national networks to reclaim and reestablish Labor Day. Our campaign started with last year's holiday. This June, the UUJEC endorsed the Poor People's March and Low-Wage Workers Assembly in Washington, D.C. The organizing for this year's Labor Day celebration was announced during the UUA's 2022 General Assembly (GA). GA delegates asked congregations to join in community alliances, with real accountability, in response to systemic oppression.

During the last 12 months, there has been a resurgence of labor union activity in the United States. Labor organizing is happening in dozens of Starbucks coffee houses, in McDonalds restaurants, at Amazon facilities, and in other places. Farm labor organizations are active in states that include California, New York, North Carolina, Florida, and others.

Labor Day toolkits were sent to our e-mail list in early August. The summer months have been difficult for many workers, and there's a need for congregations to express appreciation and support. COVID-19 continues to mutate and spread, monkey pox is identified as a public-health problem, and many healthcare workers are on the front lines in difficult and dangerous situations. Firefighters confront major wildfires in the West. Transportation workers, construction workers, and others have suffered during recent heat waves. Clearly, labor needs our support.

Letters!

UUJEC gets requests from various organizations to sign on to a variety of letters. Independently-active board members also suggest sign-ons for consideration by the UUJEC. Here we list those we have signed recently:

Since our last newsletter, we supported the following:

- ◆ A petition by the Utility Justice Coalition in support of a resolution that was to be introduced by Reps. Bush, Tlaib and Bowman that would recognize access to water, sanitation, electricity, heating, cooling, broadband communications, and public transportation as basic human rights and public services that must be accessible, safe, justly sourced and sustainable, acceptable, sufficient, affordable, climate resilient, and reliable for every person.
- ◆ A petition, directed to the Biden Department of Justice ("DOJ") and Attorney General Merrick Garland, to end the DOJ's opposition to the children's constitutional climate lawsuit, Juliana vs US (<https://bit.ly/2T7e-LAM>), proceeding to trial.
- ◆ demanded transparent and participatory process for the recently initiated Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF).
- ◆ An open letter to Elon Musk about terminating or cleaning up Indonesian nickel investments, signed by dozens of groups, including which including Wahana Lingkungan Hidup Indonesia (WALHI) and Friends of the Earth United States. The letter followed Indonesian President Joko Widodo's meeting with Musk in Texas in May to discuss potential investments and expressed concern about environmental justice.
- ◆ A letter telling Senator Schumer to hold the line on fossil fuels
- ◆ CPR Initiative's Petition to Phase Out Greenhouse Gas Pollution to Restore a Stable and Healthy Climate, sent to California Governor Gavin Newsome,
- ◆ A letter to President Biden asking him to repeal Trump's environmental retreats.
- ◆ Ask others to convince State Farm to leave ALEC,
- ◆ Requested the Biden administration to support measures to increase access to COVID tests and treatments,
- ◆ A new Interfaith Immigrant Justice Campaign, through Movement for Justice in El Barrio, a grassroots community organization led by immigrants in New York City.
- ◆ A letter opposing the "Proposed Program" for federal leasing under the Five-Year Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program.
- ◆ Church World Service [call](https://bit.ly/3Rlj61E) (<https://bit.ly/3Rlj61E>) to set the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) Presidential Determination (PD) at 200,000 immigrants by October 1st and consult with Congress on rebuilding the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP).

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News about Health:

AIW, Health Equity Act, Healthcare Census, More!

Please Do What We Agreed in Our 2022 "Help Stop the Privatization of Medicare" AIW

That is to urge your U.S. senators and representatives to work

- ◆ against the implementation of ACO-REACH;
- ◆ to see that a Medicare for All bill is passed and implemented; and
- ◆ to stop the privatization practices in many Medical Advantage plans.

ACO-REACH (Accountability Care Organization Realizing Equity and Community Health) is a program that enables private investors to control our medical health. It is being pushed for implementation on January 1, 2023 by the Commission on Medicare and Medicaid, and will often deprive us of the care that we need and cost us more.

Many highly advertised Medicare Advantage programs give advantages to private investors, including some physicians, at a cost to our health and pocketbooks.

Health Equity and Responsibility Act

Please ask your U.S. Representatives to support the Health Equity and Responsibility Act of 2022, H.R. 7585. This bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and others to undertake efforts to reduce health and healthcare disparities for communities of color, rural populations, and medically underserved communities. It addresses the challenges that Asian Americans, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Island communities face by improving federal data collection and reporting efforts, promoting culturally and linguistically appropriate care, and fostering greater diversity in the health workforce.

Judy Deutsch
chair, UUJEC healthcare team

Military Emissions Count!

After some serious discussion, the Unitarian Church of San Diego's Climate Justice Team in the heart of highly militarized San Diego stood up to support a call by San Diego Veterans for Peace for the military to discontinue its air shows. Why? Climate impacts, of course!

Their e-mail of August 14, 2022, read, in part:

"The Miramar Air Show may be fun and exciting for some, but each of the 15 F/A-18s in the show burns 1,200 gallons of polluting, climate-warming fuel per hour, FOR ENTERTAINMENT! The US military is among the world's largest institutional emitters of greenhouse gases. That's why we urge that air shows be discontinued."

It is this kind of support between Unitarian Universalists and other organizations that can further the work of mitigating climate. This also comes as [members of Veterans For Peace were arrested](#)¹ in Washington, D.C., as they called for a variety of climate actions, including cutting the Department of Defense's budget.

The IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report was very clear that if we are to have any chance of holding to a rise of 1.5° Celsius—or even 2.0° Celsius—by century's end, then [2024 must be](#)² the year of peak global emissions, with each succeeding year continuing to make deeper emissions cuts. If we are truly to meet that goal, we must act by all means necessary—and this means counting and reducing military emissions, and in turn that includes discontinuing the Miramar Airshows.

Veterans For Peace is offering slideshow presentations on the military impacts on climate. If your congregation, fellowship, society, or other climate group is interested, you can contact them [here](#).³

1 <https://bit.ly/3D1cuSk>

2 <https://bit.ly/3cHV1DH>

3 <https://bit.ly/3CUpDMH>

National Link to Abortion Providers

Because of a U.S. Supreme Court ruling, laws are in effect that restrict abortion access in some states. But abortion is legal in other states. The Supreme Court ruling does *not* mean that abortion is illegal nationwide. It is still legal to travel to states where abortion is legal.

In response to the Supreme Court removal of the Federal right to abortion medical services, a database has been created to aid women in achieving access to abortion services regardless of the state in which they live.

UUJEC's Healthcare Task Force recommends that congregations keep [this link](#), to AbortionFinder.org, available in their list of community referral services.