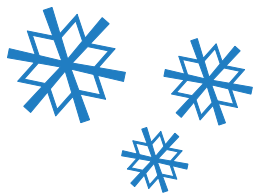




UUJEC News & Views: Winter 2022



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

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



Thursday, January 13 Report on COP26

We welcome **Doris Marlin** (Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth & Green Sanctuary Program; Strengthen Local Climate Commitments (SLCC) Campaign Coordinator). Doris has been Unitarian Universalist since 1985 and is a Board Member of the Unitarian Universalist Ministry For Earth. She is a member of All Souls Church, Unitarian in Washington, DC. Doris is also a UUSJ Advocacy Corps member and Green Sanctuary Advisory Board member. The SLCC campaign is a national effort within [CreateClimateJustice.net](https://www.createclimatejustice.net) that provides tools to strengthen and accelerate climate commitments with an equity and justice lens.

Retired from federal service, she has an academic background in water resources management with 30 years of experience applying and credentialed in project and risk management. As the UUA Civil Society Observer Delegation Head for COP 26 in Glasgow, Doris and the delegation channelled attention to the social justice and UUSC/UUA priorities that (1) fulfill the US Fair Share of the Green Climate Fund, (2) dedicate funding for Loss and Damages, and (3) submit Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) consistent with the goal of preventing warming that exceeds 1.5° Celsius.



Thursday, January 27

The Shadow of Gold

The Shadow of Gold pulls back the curtain on the world's most coveted heavy metal. Filmed in Canada (Mount Polley, B.C.), the U.S., London, Dubai, China, Peru and the Democratic Republic of Congo, the feature film is an incisive global investigation of the gold trade, from raw material to market, exposing its impact on human lives, the economy and the planet.



The film explores the mining industry from large-scale corporations that dig deep into mountains to extract gold from low-grade ore using toxic methods that haven't changed in more than 120 years to artisanal miners—an estimated 20 million people in the world's poorest nations—who extract gold by hand, producing just enough to survive

The documentary examines how industrial-scale mines are allowed to destroy ecosystems with impunity around the globe, how the illegal gold trade drives conflict and sustains organized terrorist groups. It also uncovers how gold linked to ecological disaster, the black market, and war enters the supply chain to reach unaware consumers. .

UUJEC's **Carl McCargo** and the film's producer, **Robert Lang**, lead our discussion. Register at [here](https://www.here) to get a free code to watch the film in advance, and see the trailer at [the-shadowofgold.com](https://www.theshadowofgold.com).

THE SHADOW
OF GOLD

Unitarian Universalists have a true partner in Unions!

It surprises us that support for unions has, once again, become controversial in UU circles. Here are some facts that might help you argue in favor of organized labor. I reviewed UUA social witness statements from the 21st century. I found that with our most pressing issues, unions are fighting on our side. I can't think of a better reason for us to be on the union bandwagon.

Below is a list of issues on which unions and UUs agree:

- ◆ LGBTQ Justice
- ◆ Immigrant justice
- ◆ Racial Justice
- ◆ A just transition to deal with climate change and the environment
- ◆ Democratic process and voting rights for all
- ◆ Gender justice
- ◆ Economic justice
- ◆ Healthcare justice
- ◆ Stopping exploitation of prison labor
- ◆ Corporate responsibility
- ◆ Opposition to Citizens United
- ◆ Stopping torture
- ◆ Ending present-day slavery
- ◆ Employment nondiscrimination for sexual minorities
- ◆ Freedom of speech and airwaves
- ◆ Ending poverty

Economic Policy Institute: Benefits of Unionization

Unions give workers a voice at work, which has a direct impact on wages and working conditions. Similarly, unions give workers a voice in shaping

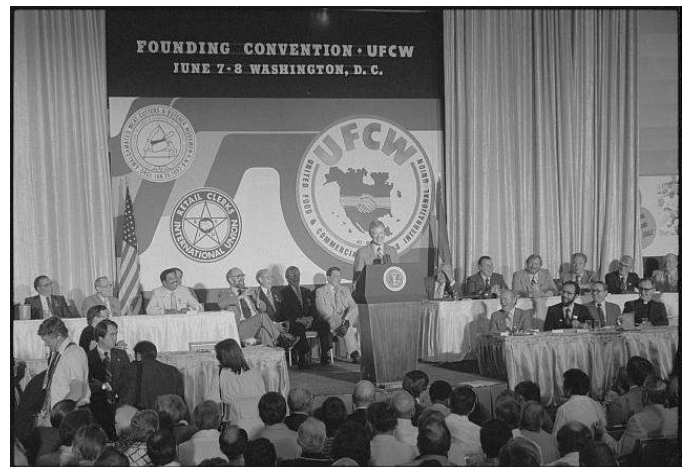
The next 3 issues require more research:

- ◆ Peace
- ◆ Religious freedom
- ◆ Moral values for a pluralistic society

Unions take no position on the following 4 issues:

- ◆ Reproductive rights
- ◆ Banning Capital punishment
- ◆ Right to bear arms (or control guns)
- ◆ Sex education

| Terry Lowman



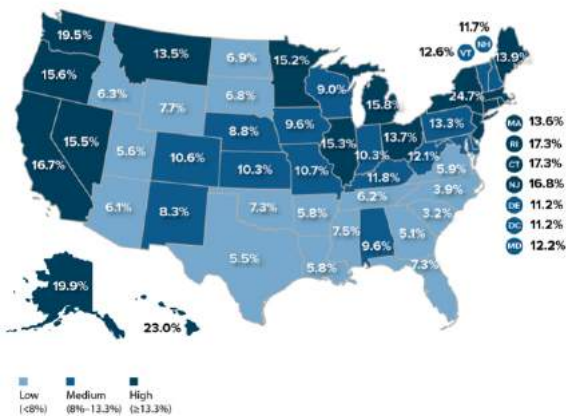
their communities. EPI's recent report (1 of 4 maps from their recent e-mail is shown here) shows that states with higher unionization levels tend to have more equitable democracies and economic and social structures:

- ◆ Minimum wages in the 17 U.S. states with the highest union densities are on average 19% higher than the national average and 40% higher than those in low-density states.
- ◆ States with the highest union densities have an uninsured population 4.5% points lower, on average, than that of low-union-density states (health insurance).
- ◆ Unions don't just help those workers who are in them. The relationship between high union density and higher household incomes overall, greater access to health care and paid leave, and fewer voting restrictions highlights the importance of protecting the right of workers to organize, including by passing the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act.

| Article adapted from EPI e-mail

Unionization in your state

Union density by state, 2015–2019 average



Source: Economic Policy Institute analysis of Current Population Survey Outgoing Rotation Group data, 2015–2019.

EPI

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'd like to hear about your work, however 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 in April.

Although we do not know details as this issue of *News & Views* goes to press, a few members attended last January's virtual conference, and were very impressed. Watch for more information—and mark your calendars!

UU Compass Conference

The Compass conference held on-line on December 11 & 12 gave approximately 200 UUs nationwide the chance to reflect on their values and beliefs. The event opened with statements from four non-UUs: from a public health expert, from two members of the Rising Appalachia musical group, and from a self-described “queer black trouble-maker”. They spoke about what religion and faith means to them and their interactions with UU activities and individuals.

A panel of UUs—young adults, a religious educator and clergy members—responded to what they'd just heard. Perhaps the heart of the conference was the chance for UUs from across the country to share personal beliefs and reactions to the speakers. The chats interspersed throughout the conference gave small groups of attendees the chance to share ideas and experiences.

At the end, time was set aside to hear about and reflect on the Article II project. A proposal will be made to the UUA Board by Jan. 2023, not only on the viability of an Eighth Principle supporting racial equity, but also on revisions to Article II in its entirety: UU purposes, principles and sources. Attendees had their voices heard in this process.

The event demonstrated how on-line gatherings can foster dialogue among UUs across the country, in a way that makes it much easier for those of all income levels and of all ages to participate.

| Jane Bannor

Article II Study Commission

to changemanager@uua.org or article2studycommission@uua.org. You can also ask to be put on their e-mail list and, possibly, to attend meetings. The Commission says that they are still doing more discussions with key people than working on wording, but suggesting better wording at this point (before its solidified) would be quite useful.

| Dick Burkhardt

Present Article II (from the UUA Bylaws at <https://bit.ly/3IYtgBR>):

8 ARTICLE II Principles and Purposes	mony with the
9 Section C-2.1. Principles.	38 rhythms of nature.
10 We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist	39 Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our
11 Association, covenant to affirm and promote	40 faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our
12 The inherent worth and dignity of every person;	41 vision. As free congregations we enter into this covenant,
13 Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;	42 promising to one another our mutual trust and support.
14 Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth	43 Section C-2.2. Purposes.
15 in our congregations;	44 The Unitarian Universalist Association shall devote its resources to
16 A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;	45 and exercise its corporate powers for religious, educational and
17 The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process	46 humanitarian purposes. The primary purpose of the Association is
18 within our congregations and in society at large;	47 to serve the needs of its member congregations, organize new
19 The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all;	48 congregations, extend and strengthen Unitarian Universalist
20 Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we	49 institutions and implement its principles.
21 are a part.	50 Section C-2.3. Inclusion.
22 The living tradition which we share draws from many sources:	51 Systems of power, privilege, and oppression have traditionally
23 Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder,	52 created barriers for persons and groups with particular identities,
24 affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit	53 ages, abilities, and histories. We pledge to replace such barriers
25 and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;	54 with ever-widening circles of solidarity and mutual respect. We
26 Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to	55 strive to be an association of congregations that truly welcome all
27 confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion	56 persons and commit to structuring congregational and associational
28 and the transforming power of love;	57 life in ways that empower and enhance everyone's participation.
29 Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical	58 Section C-2.4. Freedom of Belief.
30 and spiritual life;	59 Nothing herein shall be deemed to infringe upon the individual
31 Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's	60 freedom of belief which is inherent in the Universalist and Unitarian
32 love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;	61 heritages or to conflict with any statement of purpose, covenant, or
33 Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of	62 bond of union used by any congregation unless such is used as a
34 reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries	63 creedal test.
35 of the mind and spirit;	
36 Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate	
37 the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in har-	