



Reversing Inequality: Healthcare Justice is a UU Value

Thank you to our terrific speakers and presenters!



Meet Rev. Abhi Janamanchi: I began serving as Senior Minister of Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church in August 2013. Previously, I served UU congregations in Clearwater, FL, Madison, WI, and Park Forest, IL. In the larger community, I have been actively involved in interfaith, multicultural, and social justice work for over two decades including serving as President of the International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF), member of the Executive Team of Montgomery County's Interfaith Community Working Group, and on the Internal Review Board. [@CedarLaneUU](#)



Sister Simone Campbell is the Executive Director of NETWORK – a national group of social justice advocates inspired by Catholic Sisters that lobbies in D.C. to mend the gaps in income and wealth in the U.S. She has led four cross-country “Nuns on the Bus” trips, focused on economic justice, comprehensive immigration reform, voter turnout, bridging divides in politics and society, and (most recently) mending the gaps. She wrote the famous “Nuns’ Letter,” considered by many as critically important in convincing Congress to support the Affordable Care Act, and is the author of [A Nun on the Bus: How All of Us Can Create Hope, Change, and Community](#), published by Harper Collins. She has received numerous awards, spoke at the 2012 Democratic National Convention, and has appeared on 60 Minutes, The Colbert Report, and The Daily Show with Jon Stewart. She is a religious leader, attorney and poet with extensive experience in public policy and advocacy for systemic change. [@sr_simone](#)



Chuck Collins a storyteller, researcher, agitator and campaigner based at the Institute for Policy Studies where he co-edits Inequality.org. For over two decades, he has worked to shift the stuck national debate about wealth inequality, racial wealth divisions, and taxation. His newest book examines inequality and privilege: [Born on Third Base: A One Percenters Makes the Case for Tackling Inequality, Bringing Wealth Home, and Committing to the Common Good](#) (Chelsea Green, 2016). Collins is cofounder of Wealth for the Common Good which merged in 2015 with the Patriotic Millionaires, an effort to organize members of the 1 percent to advocate for fair tax policy, living wages, and campaign finance reform. [@Chuck99to1](#)



Bishop Douglas Miles is a noted African American speaker and senior pastor of the Koinonia Baptist Church in Baltimore, Maryland. He has been a long-time leader of Baltimore's interfaith BUILD coalition, an affiliate of Saul Alinsky's Industrial Areas Foundation, to improve local housing, increase job opportunities, and rebuild schools and neighborhoods. He helped pass the first living wage law in the nation in the 1990s, raised over \$10 million to help rebuild a community in Baltimore, and helped improve insurance for inner city residents. Bishop Miles helped push Johns Hopkins University and local medical institutions to create 1,000 entry level jobs for residents of troubled neighborhoods. And, as one UU put it, "Bishop Miles has a gift for story telling that glued me to my seat". [@BUILDBaltimore](#)



Amirah Sequeira is the Legislative Advocate for National Nurses United, the largest union and professional association of registered nurses in U.S. history with more than 150,000 members in every state. She was formerly Associate Director of International Campaigns and Communications for Health GAP (Global Access Project) She has extensive experience organizing and strategizing with health and healthcare related campaigns including HIV/AIDS, and healthcare for all. A recipient of the Gates Cambridge Scholarship, the Alan J Willen Memorial Prize and the Charles H Bjorkwall Prize Amirah has led powerful campaigns from an early age. She was 1 of the 50 next generation innovators from the United States honored by Mic50 in 2015 for her leadership. [@miraseq](#)



Amelia Kegan, of the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), leads the domestic policy team's work in analyzing legislation, advocating on Capitol Hill, and developing legislative strategy. Prior to coming to FCNL, Amelia worked at a variety of other national non-profits in D.C. and Chicago, focusing on federal budget, tax, and low-income policy. She most recently spent six years at Bread for the World as the Deputy Director of Government Relations. Amelia received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Government from Smith College and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Washington School of Law. She is a member of the Illinois bar and serves on the board of the Washington Council of Lawyers. [@FCNL](#)



William Rice is the Senior Researcher/Writer for Americans for Tax Fairness. ATF is a coalition of over 400 national, state and local organizations united in support of a tax system that works for all Americans. That means raising more revenue to meet our nation's growing needs by requiring big corporations and the wealthy to pay their fair share of taxes. William has been associated with ATF from its founding five years ago, authoring reports, opinion pieces, facts sheets and other policy and communications material. He received a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Maryland and lives in Washington, D.C. [@newmediaskeptic](#)



Pat Lamanna is an active member, and co-chair of the Social Justice Committee, at the UU Fellowship of Poughkeepsie, N.Y. Her songs have been praised highly by Pete Seeger, Peter Yarrow, David Roth, and others. They have a strong folk influence, and cover issues such as peace, religion and the environment, and many personal topics as well. One of her songs, "Peace Pilgrim," is featured in part on Pete Seeger's Grammy-nominated album, "The Storm King." She has two solo albums, "Full Circle" (2009) and "Do I Know My Song Well Enough to Start Singing Yet?" (2012). In addition to writing and performing in concert, Pat enjoys doing musical UU services. Some topics include Pete Seeger, Malvina Reynolds, and Peace Pilgrim. She may be reached at patla42@gmail.com, or visit her site, www.patlamanna.com.



The Rev. Dr. Linda Olson Peebles was called to join the ministry team of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington in May 2001. She now serves as its Minister of Faith in Action. Linda's life has been committed to community building, through arts, education, service, and justice-making. Linda is a supporter of families and children, and has been a leader for education reform, women's health rights, peace education, and sexuality education. She was instrumental in founding and supporting the growth of a broad-based power organization working for justice for poor and immigrant people in Northern Virginia – VOICE (Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement). [@UUArlingtonVA](#)

Congressman Ami Bera represents California's 7th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. He's the Co-Chair of the Congressional Problem Solvers Caucus, the only bipartisan



group of its kind in Washington, where both Republicans and Democrats can find common ground on the crucial challenges we all face. A first-generation American born and raised in California, Bera is guided by a desire to serve his community. It's that commitment to service that led him to become a doctor and later run for Congress.

During Congressman Bera's twenty-year medical career, he worked to improve the availability, quality, and affordability of healthcare. After graduating from medical school in 1991, he did his residency in internal medicine at California Pacific Medical Center, eventually becoming chief resident. He went on to practice medicine in the Sacramento area, serving in various leadership roles for MedClinic Medical Group. Congressman Bera went on to put his medical experience to work for his community, serving Sacramento County as Chief Medical Officer. He then moved into education, working as

clinical professor of medicine and associate dean for admissions and outreach at University of California, Davis, where he taught the next generation of doctors. [@RepBera](#)



Lucas Allen is a Government Relations Associate and works with NETWORK lobbyists and coalitions to advance federal policies inspired by Catholic Social Justice. Lucas graduated in May from Boston College, where he studied International Studies and Political Science and was active in social justice groups regarding global health inequalities, economic injustice, direct service, and advocacy. Lucas previously worked for Seed Global Health and the Jesuit Conference National Advocacy Office, where he was introduced to the power of faith-based advocacy and inspired to work at the intersection of faith and politics. [@LAllen133](#)



Anna Rhee is the Advocacy Program Consultant to UUSJ, working on citizen engagement and voter mobilization, conducting advocacy trainings, and organizing monthly volunteer Advocacy Corps visits to Capitol Hill. Anna has deep roots in the faith-based advocacy community and is committed to engaging the religious community to act on issues of justice and peace. She has served in advocacy and organizing positions in national offices of The United Methodist Church and the Children's Defense Fund, and on boards of nonprofit organizations such as the Churches' Center for Theology and Public Policy, Interfaith Action for Economic Justice, National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA, and NETWORK: A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby. [@UUSJ](#)

Meg Olson is the Grassroots Mobilization Coordinator, and she organizes our field of activists—



Grassroots Advocates teams, smaller advocacy hubs, grass tops activists—to become stronger and more effective advocates for NETWORK’s policy priorities and therefore, people who are living in poverty and excluded from participating in the economy. Meg has been an activist since her 20s working on a variety of social justice issues including education policy, immigration reform, and ending mountaintop removal coal mining in Appalachia. She has seven years of experience as an English high school teacher and most recently, worked in the Advocacy Department at Catholic Charities in St. Louis where she spent time lobbying state lawmakers and directing the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. Meg has a B.A. in Music and an M.A. in English. [@MEGaStl](#)



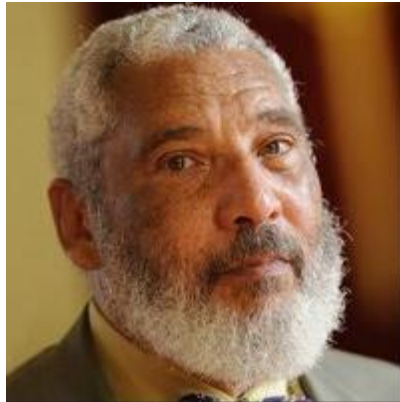
Anna Fendley is a Legislative Representative for the United Steelworkers’(USW) in Washington, DC. The USW is the largest industrial union in North America and represents 850,000 workers. She has a broad portfolio including health and safety, chemicals, healthcare, and civil and human rights. She also serves as the AFL-CIO representative to the International Trade Union Confederation’s Youth Committee where she led the effort to create a global economic platform for young trade unionists. Previously Anna worked in the USW’s Health, Safety & Environment Department. Anna earned her BS and MPH from Boston University. [@steelworkers](#)



Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal represents Washington’s 7th District, which encompasses most of Seattle and surrounding areas. The first Indian-American woman in the House of Representatives, Jayapal has spent the last twenty years working internationally and domestically as a leading national advocate for women’s, immigrant, civil, and human rights. Her focus is on ensuring income equality; access to education, from early learning to higher education, including debt-free college; expanding Social Security and Medicare; protecting our environment for our next generation; and ensuring immigrant, civil and human rights for all.

Jayapal will relentlessly challenge systems that corrupt our democracy, pushing for campaign finance reform, tax reform, voting rights and an end to institutionalized racism. In all of these endeavors, she’ll continue to build the movement to expand our democracy and create the political space for policy change that benefits working families and responsible businesses. [@RepJayapal](#)

Rev. Graylan Hagler, an African-American pastor and activist, is the long-time Senior Minister of the historic Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, Washington, D.C.. Born and raised in



Baltimore, Maryland, Rev. Hagler received a Bachelor's Degree in Religion from Oberlin College, Ohio, in 1976. He is Past National President of Ministers for Racial, Social and Economic Justice (MRSEJ). Rev. Hagler is a long-time social justice advocate and active in the Palestine solidarity movement. He recently returned from an all-Black delegation trip to Palestine consisting of Hip Hop and Spoken Word artists as well as an activist in the labor movement, and academic on Black Liberation and a survivor of the Rwandan genocide. A life-long veteran of social justice movements in the UA and abroad, he is now a key leader in the Repairers of the Breach (Moral Mondays) movement organized by Rev William Barber (whom Rev. Graylan has known since youth). [@GraylanHagler](#)

Reversing Inequality: Healthcare Justice is a UU Value: Steering Committee

Thank you the UUJEC/UUSJ staff and volunteers who helped make this conference possible

Lavona Grow, Michael Teasdale, Pablo DeJesus, Terry Lowman, Martha Ades, Rachel Bennett Steury, Bob Denniston, Elizabeth Stevens, Jim Black, Jane Bannor, Bill Johnson, Kit Marlowe, Sarah Masters, Carl McCargo, Julian Adams, Mark Kassis, Dean Wanderer, Adam Wasserman, Ed Kringer and Lucy Hitchcock.

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