



Newsletter Date: 1/30/17

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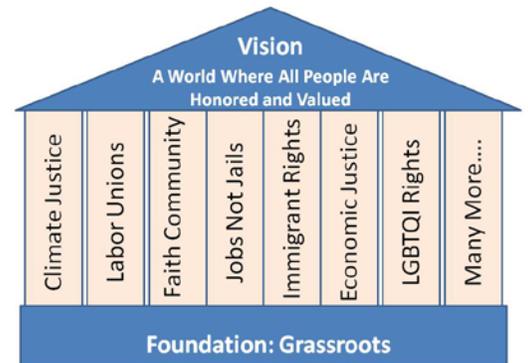
Mark your calendars - UU Mass Action Advocacy Day is April 11<sup>th</sup>!



### We're in a Marathon Folks, Not a Sprint....

By Laura Wagner, Executive Director

I know many of you are feeling overwhelmed by the numerous events that are happening and the multiple calls to action. Please know that justice organizations are talking to one another and coordinating actions but the fast pace needed right now means that our coordination isn't perfect. Grassroots action can be messy at times - and that's actually good!



Building Justice Together

Grassroots people power is the foundation in all that we do and it energizes our shared work. Each organization works together as best they can. At UU Mass Action we participate in multiple coalition efforts and are in frequent communication with other leaders. In the house metaphor pictured above, the organizations work to give structure to our shared movement and strengthen our collective work. The roof in this example holds us all together by creating a shared vision we are all working towards. You are called to engage in the issue you care most passionately about and know that others are doing the same. Then, there are times when we are called to come together for one action or event.

At those times, you simply need to trust in our leaders and take the action that is called for. Make sure that you are engaged in the daily practices that both energize and calm you. We are all in this for the long haul and everyone is needed. It does not matter if you think your contribution is small, what's most important now is working together and taking collective action. It is not a time to give into despair or feel defeated. Let's care for ourselves, one another and not lose sight of our vision.

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## LEGISLATION UPDATES

January 20<sup>th</sup> was the deadline to file legislation for this session. We now have until FEB 3<sup>rd</sup> to get as many co-sponsors as possible for our priority legislation. The UU Mass Action website now has a page focused on legislation, which will be updated as new developments occur. [CLICK HERE](#) for the full list of our priorities as well as the legislation that we are endorsing.

<http://www.uumassaction.org/uuma/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/2017-2018-Legislative-Priorities-One-Sheet.pdf>

UU Mass Action has identified several bills that we have prioritized for advocacy. There are numerous great bills, as you will see on the website, but we can't work on all of them. It does not mean that we don't support them.

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### **Climate (These are the priorities identified by the MA Power Forward Coalition)**

HD2157/ SD1632 Solar Power & the Green Economy, Sen. Jamie Eldridge & Rep. Paul Mark

HD2103/ SD1372 Increase RPS & Ensure Compliance with GWSA, Sen. Marc Pacheco & Rep. Kay Khan

HD3418/SD841 Solar Power in Environmental Justice and Urban Communities, Sen. Sonia Chang Diaz & Rep. Russell Holmes

HD3204/SD1727 Clarifying Authority & Responsibilities of DPU, Sen. Jamie Eldridge & Rep. Stephen Kulik

HD2527/SD1674 Protect Ratepayers from Pipeline Expansion Costs, Sen. Pat Jehlen & Rep. Ken Gordon

HD3117/SD1956 Environmental Justice and Toxics Reduction, Sen. Eldridge & Rep. Michelle Dubois

SD1222 Prompt Decommissioning of Nuclear Power Stations, Sen. deMacedo

HD149 Increase Nuclear Power Plant Protections to a 20 Mile Radius, Rep. James Cantwell

### **Ending Mass Incarceration**

HD2714/SD1128 Justice Reinvestment Act, Sen. Chang Diaz & Rep. Mary Keefe

HD639 Raise Felony Theft Threshold, Sen. Pat Jehlen & Sen. Eldridge and Rep. Chynah Tyler

HD3075/SD884 Bail Reform, Sen. Ken Donnelly & Rep. David Rogers

HD2929/HD3694 End Probation & Parole Fees, Rep Chynah Tyler & Rep Mary Keefe

SD1389/SD1951 End Probation & Parole Fees, Sen. Will Brownsberger & Sen. Michael Barrett

HD2607 Diversion to Treatment for those with Non-violent Drug Charges, Rep. Liz Malia and Mayor Marty Walsh

*Note: we are also working on solitary reform but the bill info was not available at the time of this printing.*

### Economic Justice

HD2179/SD984 Raise the Minimum Wage to \$15, Sen. Ken Donnelly & Rep. Dan Donahue

HD2573/SD1768 Paid Family & Medical Leave, Sen. Karen Spilka & Rep. Ken Gordon

Economic Equity in Politics

HD1991/SD476 We the People Act, Sen. Jamie Eldridge & Rep. Carmine Gentile

### Anti-Oppression

HD1156/SD992 Fundamental Freedoms Act, Sen. Harriette Chandler & Rep. Jay Kaufman

SD1119 Prohibit Use of Native American Mascots by Public Schools, Sen. Barbara L'Italien

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**You can find a downloadable spreadsheet and the one page summary [HERE](#)**

### What you can do

We have until February 3<sup>rd</sup> to get as many co-sponsors as possible for these bills. You are encouraged to:

1. Choose a section and contact your legislators. Ask them if they are willing to co-sponsor the bills, or
2. Send the [complete list](#) to your legislators and ask that they endorse all of the bills

Find your legislators' info: [Where do I vote MA](#) will give you their info if you don't know who your legislators are. Or, you can go to [MAlegislature.gov](http://MAlegislature.gov) and enter the person's name to get their contact info.

Sample Call Script:

Hi, My name is \_\_\_ and I'm calling from \_\_\_\_\_. Can I speak to the representative/senator's aide who deals with legislation about co-sponsoring a bill?

*(Provide bill info docket number, name, sponsors)* I'd like to ask representative/senator \_\_\_\_\_ to please consider co-sponsoring this/these bills.

*(It would be great to add a few words about why you support these bills. If you get an answer, please report back to Laura Wagner [lwagner@uumassaction.org](mailto:lwagner@uumassaction.org). If you don't get an answer, please consider following up before Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>. If they'd like more info, fact sheets are available [HERE](#). Be sure to thank the person for their time!)*

### **Another Important Action You Can Take: The Raise Up Mass Campaign needs stories!**

Raising the minimum wage for workers, many of whom are adults with families, will have a significant impact on thousands of workers in Massachusetts; and more income means more spending at local businesses.

Paid family and medical leave would mean that families can take care of themselves and loved ones without having to sacrifice their pay. We are the only developed nation that does not provide this benefit to our workers!



- Are you a minimum wage worker? How would your life change if your pay increased to \$15?
- Have you recently added a child to your family through birth, adoption or as a foster parent? Did you have to take an unpaid leave in order to care for this child? How did this disrupt your family?
- Have you been diagnosed with a serious illness and had to take an unpaid leave in order to receive medical treatment? Have you had to care for a loved one dealing with significant illness and were forced to take an unpaid leave of absence? How would this paid benefit improve your situation?

If you have a story to share or know someone who does, please consider sharing it with me. The coalition is adding stories to our website, along with pictures of the individuals sharing their stories - I would love to add yours! Contact: Laura Wagner [lwagner@uumassaction.org](mailto:lwagner@uumassaction.org)



#### **Action Alert - Ask YOUR Rep and Senator to Co-Sponsor the We the People Act**

Big money interests spoke loud and clear in the last election, with just 0.4% of the population donating more than 70% of a record-setting \$6.9 billion spent. Now it's time to raise our voices.

Here's a quick way you can support passage of the 28th U.S. constitutional amendment that is needed to rescue democracy. We need to win an amendment that will ensure that corporations can't appropriate the constitutional rights of individual human beings, and that gives legislators more power to regulate campaign spending.

Your state legislators have until February 3 to co-sponsor the We the People Act:

## **Ask your legislators to co-sponsor**

The We the People Act (<http://www.wethepeoplemass.org/text-of-20172018-bill/>) will put Massachusetts on record as one of six states demanding that either Congress propose the amendment we need or petition for an Article V amendment convention of the states to propose this amendment.

In the last session, the We the People Act had a lot of support, but still it stalled in committee. To get it passed this session, we need even more legislative support. Your email can help convince your state Representative and Senator to sign on.

In Massachusetts, we have proven bi-partisan support for this 28th amendment at the ballot box, but our legislature will act only if they hear from us. So, please contact your state Senator and Representative now and ask them to co-sponsor the We the People Act.

Thank you!

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## **EVENTS, EDUCATION AND FORUMS**

**Looking for ways to live your values? Below are Three highlighted events - Join us!**

*Note: Events Below are sponsored or co-sponsored by UU Mass Action, or are being offered by our UU partners*

### **1) Take Action against Hate**

#### **Faith Solidarity Proclamation Press Conference**

**When: Tue Jan 31 9:30 AM**

**Where: St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral, 138 Tremont St, Boston**

We are Muslims.  
We are immigrants.  
**WE WILL STAND TOGETHER and WE WILL LOVE EACH OTHER**

### **2) Take Action on Building Sanctuary:**

#### **Faith Coalition Building for Sanctuary**

**Thursday, Feb 2 at 6:15 pm**

**Location: First Parish in Brookline, 382 Walnut St, Brookline**

**Organized by UU Mass Action**

Register [HERE](#)   [Facebook Event Page Link](#)   [Flyer](#)   [Directions](#)

Our neighbors in the immigrant community, both documented and not, are facing enormous uncertainty under the new administration. Millions of deportations have been prioritized in the first 100 days which will tear families apart. As immigrant rights organizers mobilize across the country, the faith community will not remain silent.

At this event, you will:

- Build relationships with others from congregations in greater Boston who are interested in ways of providing and supporting sanctuary
- Hear from Rev Neal Anderson, Senior Minister at the UU Fellowship of Northern Nevada (Reno). His congregation has provided physical sanctuary. He will be joining us via zoom to share their process and his personal experience as a faith leader
- Hear testimony from an LGBTQ rights activist living in Austin, TX who needed sanctuary when her life was in danger.
- Help strengthen our faith network and support one another in joining the movement to fight this injustice

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## 2) Dismantle Racism:

### Countering Islamophobia: Organizing as a Unified Force

When: Sat Feb 4<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM - 3:00 PM

Where: Arlington St. Church, 351 Boylston St, Boston [Directions](#)

[Registration](#), \$10 [CLICK HERE](#) *lunch will be provided*

[Facebook Event Page](#)

**Note: Space is limited! Registration is required - we are unable to accommodate walk-ins**

[Click Here for Flyer](#)

### SUPPORT OUR MUSLIM NEIGHBORS

- Back the Muslim community which is facing escalating bigotry and hate by building relationships with Muslim individuals and organizations
- Fight Islamophobia on an individual and collective level, with emphasis on dismantling structural Islamophobia
- Work with Local Government, Schools and Muslim Organizations to forge institutional backing for solidarity, civil liberties, safety and refuge in our cities

Interactive sessions at this workshop will help us develop a wide variety of positive actions. All are welcome!

#### Featured Speakers:

- Shannon Erwin, Muslim Justice League
- Hayat Imam, Dorchester People for Peace
- Imam Abdullah Faaruuq, Mosque for the Praising of Allah

- Ashaki Taha-Cisse, ISBCC Community Educator and Multi-faith Facilitator
- Malik M. A. Khan, Islamic Center of Boston, Wayland
- Helen Kobek, Arlington Street Church

*Sponsors: AFSC (American Friends Service Committee), Arlington Street Church (Social Action Committee), Dorchester People for Peace, Jet-Pac Inc., Jewish Voice for Peace - Boston (JVP- Boston), Mass Peace Action, Muslim Justice League, Unitarian Universalist Mass Action Network, Massachusetts Interfaith Worker Justice*

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## **Keep Reading for more opportunities to take action!**

### **Forum: What is a Sanctuary City? What is at Stake?**

**When: Mon Jan 30, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

**Where: Bridgewater State, Rondileau Campus Center, Small Ballroom** [MAP](#)

**Lead Sponsors:** Bridgewater Citizens for Civility and Respect, St. Basil Chapel and Catholic Center, BSU's Center for Middle Eastern Studies, and BSU Global Religious Studies.

Guest speakers for this awareness building event are:

- Ellen McSweeney, Stonehill College
- Philip Torrey, Harvard Law School
- Miriam Martin-Goula, Yale University
- Vernon Domingo, Bridgewater State University

[Click Here for Flyer](#)

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### **Pilgrim Safety Violations: A Conversation with Union of Concerned Scientist Dave Lochbaum**

*with guests Mary Lampert, Pilgrim Watch, and Deb Katz, Citizens Awareness Network*

**When: Mon Jan 30, 7:00 – 8:30 PM**

**Where: Plymouth Senior Center , 41 Obery St, Plymouth**

Come with your questions and hear experts in the field of nuclear safety and regulation speak about the 'leaked' NRC email\* and implications of ongoing safety violations at Pilgrim. The most important thing we can do now is show that we are taking these safety violations seriously. We need supportive and informed community members to speak out for public safety at the NRC public meeting on January 31. Tonight is an opportunity to learn more and have questions answered.

\* *"We are observing current indications of a safety culture problem that a bunch of talking won't fix."*

[Click Here for Flyer](#)

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### **Nuclear Regulatory Commission Public Meeting**

**When: Tue Jan 31, 6:30 PM**

**Where: Hotel 1620, 180 Water St, Plymouth**

NRC attendees: William Dean, Dir. Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Daniel Dorman, regional Administrator Region I, Raymond Lorson, Director, Division of Reactor Safety, Donald Jackson, Chef, Operations Branch, Division of Reactor Safety. Public comment is welcome. Sign up prior to entering the ballroom, but public speakers will be chosen in random order.

Carpooling from the Falmouth area: Janet Azarovitz at [jazarovitz@comcast.net](mailto:jazarovitz@comcast.net)

[Click Here for Flyer](#)

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## Creating Sanctuary - UU College of Social Justice and UURISE

*Two webinars led by the [UU College of Social Justice](#) and Katia Hansen, President and CEO of [UU Refugee & Immigrant Services and Education \(UURISE\)](#), will focus specifically on what it means to become a Sanctuary congregation and how to get there. We'll also consider other ways to be in solidarity with those most at risk in this new political landscape.*

**Open to all: Faithful Discernment: Is Your Congregation Called to Offer Sanctuary?**

**Monday, January 30, 7:00-9:00 pm (ET)**

Register here: <https://uusc.zoom.us/webinar/register/fb4f4080f785bcffc5b9141539e44ee6>

**Open to all: The Path Toward Sanctuary: A Practical Guide**

**Monday, February 27 7:00-9:00 pm (ET)**

Register here: <https://uusc.zoom.us/webinar/register/0fc7045d80e5cfcf7c24e00bf0acd2b8>

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## Reclaiming Our Democracy

**When: Tue Jan 31 7:00 – 9:00 PM**

**Where: First Parish in Concord, 20 Lexington Road, Concord**

[Flyer](#)

Do you believe that “we the people” need to reclaim our democracy? Do you believe that corporations, Super PACS and the very wealthy have too much influence on our government? If so, please come to a gathering organized by the Americans for Economic Fairness group at First Parish in Concord on January 31 at 7:00 p.m. We will view the 30-minute film Legalize Democracy followed by small group discussions to better understand the issues and what needs to be done. If we have bad weather that evening, please call the office at 978-369-9602 to verify that the church is open.

All people from all denominations and beliefs are encouraged to join us. This issue crosses all races, religions and political affiliations. If you are interested in attending, please complete this short [registration form](#) or email Fred Van Deusen at [fredvandeu@gmail.com](mailto:fredvandeu@gmail.com).

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**Film: *The Settlers*, by Israel's award-winning filmmaker Shimon Dotan**

**When: Fri Feb 3 (Snow Date: Friday 17th) Doors open at 6:30 PM, Film at 7:00 PM**

**Where: Harvard Unitarian Universalist Church On the Common, 9 Ayer Rd, Harvard, MA Doors**

Join us for Q&A, Discussion, and Free Refreshments *The Settlers* is based on the official report of Talia Sasson, former head of the Israeli state prosecution criminal department that investigated 105 illegal Jewish settlements established in the West Bank and East Jerusalem between 1995 and March 1999. Filmmaker Shimon Dotan, a former Israeli Navy Seal, presents a comprehensive examination of these settlement communities, "The first film of its kind to offer a comprehensive view of the Jewish settlers in the occupied territories of the West Bank...an intimate look at those people at the core of the most daunting challenges facing Israel and the international community today as the Palestinians and Israelis resume talks again." Asked who should come- Dotan replied, "All Israelis, all Jews and anyone with an interest in the Middle East." This event is sponsored by members of the HUUC Community. Co-sponsored by UJME MA

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**To Islam with Love: A Card Making Marathon for Kids against Islamophobia**

**When: Sun Feb 5, 4:00 - 5:30 PM**

**Where: Dorchester Arts Collaborative, 157 Washington St, Dorchester**



For tickets and more info, please see [Facebook Event Page](#) (free)

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### **Upcoming Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA) Public Hearings**

Public hearings will be held: **When: Monday, February 6, 2017**

9:00 AM to 11:30 AM, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM, and at 6:00 PM

Where: MassDEP Boston Office, One Winter Street, Boston, MA

AND: 9:00 AM at the MassDEP Southeast Regional Office, 20 Riverside Drive, Lakeville, MA

**When: Wednesday, February 8, 2017, 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM**

Where: MassDEP Central Regional Office, 8 New Bond Street, Worcester, MA

AND 2:00 PM at the Springfield Central Library, 220 State Street, Springfield, MA

Note: If one or more of the previously scheduled public hearings is cancelled due to inclement weather, additional public hearings will be held on: Friday, February 10, 2017 at 9:00 AM at the MassDEP Boston Office, One Winter Street, Boston, MA

AND MassDEP Central Regional Office, 8 New Bond Street, Worcester, MA

*The last hearing at each location will remain open until all parties in attendance have been heard, with the exception of the Springfield Public Library that closes at 8 PM.*

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### **Mobilizing Congregations for Justice**

**When: Tue Feb 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM**

**Where: First Parish Cambridge UU, 3 Church St, Cambridge**

Congregations can be a powerful force when mobilized for justice work. This training will teach, model, and practice 3 central tools for community organizing that can be used to build a more loving and powerful justice-centered community.



In many congregations, activists struggle to get to a place where the justice work is owned by the whole congregation, rather than a select few. This program offers specific tools of community organizing, translated for the context of a congregational setting. We'll vision what it looks like when the worship, music, board of directors, RE program, and finance committee are brought into a shared vision and how the basic tools of community organizing can help get us there.

Please click [HERE](#) to register on the Facebook event page

Trainer: Matt Meyer \$25/person

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### **Award Winning Criminal Justice Reformer Speaks**

**When: Sat Feb 11, 4:00 - 5:30 PM**

**Where: Temple Hillel B'nai Torah (HBT), 120 Corey St, West Roxbury**

Please RSVP [HERE](#)



Come join us! The HBT Social Action/Civil Rights Team is pleased to welcome former Suffolk County Prosecutor and justice reform leader Adam Foss (above left, with John Legend).

Adam spent eight years as an assistant district attorney in the juvenile division of the Suffolk County DA's Office. Since then, he [teamed up with Academy Award winner John Legend](#) to build a non-profit, Prosecutor Integrity.

To get a feel for Adam's vision, [watch his powerful TEDTalk \(1.4 million views\)](#). Foss was named to the [Root 100](#), a list of African Americans responsible for the year's most significant social movements and big ideas. He has been featured on [NPR's Morning Edition](#) and in the [Boston Globe](#) and [Forbes Magazine](#).

Adam will discuss criminal justice reform and concrete steps communities can take to help improve the system and the lives of people touched by it. In his role as an assistant district attorney, Adam spearheaded several intervention, diversion and rehabilitation programs.

We'd love to have you join us for this or future sessions of our Education for Action series.

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### **Multi-Generational Non-Violent Direct Action Training**

**When: Sat Feb 11<sup>th</sup> 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM**

**Where: Amherst/Northampton area (Specific location will be sent with confirmation email)**

This workshop will introduce you to the spirit of nonviolence and to the continuum of Non Violent Direct Actions (NVDA) and will prepare you to be part of Sugar Shack Alliance actions. The day includes time for personal reflections on Civil Disobedience, an introduction to the basic tenets of consensus decision making and horizontal leadership, exploring the purpose of affinity groups and learning about the structure of Sugar Shack Alliance. An important part of the day is to raise awareness of dynamics related to power and privilege.

**Please register [HERE](#)** You will receive a confirmation email with details.

Questions? Contact [sugarshackalliance@gmail.com](mailto:sugarshackalliance@gmail.com)

*Organized by Climate Action Now and Sugar Shack Alliance*

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### **Beyond the Wall, film screening and discussion with Jenny Phillips, director**

**When: Sat Feb 11<sup>th</sup> , 10 AM**

**Where: The Lexington Venue Theater, 1794 Mass Ave, Lexington**

Beyond the wall follows the lives and stories of a small community of men released from prison and attempting to rebuild their lives with little support from the criminal justice system. Through this compelling personal account, the film vividly shows their struggle to survive beyond the walls of prison.

Louie Diaz, the man highlighted in the film, will be coming for the post film discussion.

Sponsors: First Parish Bedford, Follen Community Church, First Parish Lexington

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### **Film: A time to Choose**

**When: Sunday Feb 12, 3:00 PM**

**Where: First Parish in Needham UU, 23 Dedham Ave, Needham**

It's the biggest challenge humanity has ever faced. It's also our greatest opportunity.

It's time to choose. With footage from five continents, Time to Choose explores the scope of the climate change crisis and the power of solutions already available.

The film will be followed by:

- Discussion of concrete steps to address climate change
- Refreshments
- Informational tables from local groups

For sponsors and more info, download [FLYER HERE](#)

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**The Next Meeting of the UU Mass Action Black Lives Matter Certified working group will be:**

**Sunday, February 12, 2017**, 4-6 p.m. at First Parish Cambridge in Harvard Square.

To view the agenda, click [HERE](#)

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## RESOURCES

Check out this new resource: [#SanctuaryEverywhere](#)

Created by the American Friends Service Committee, it contains numerous resources to help create sanctuary everywhere!

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## Save the Date!

**UUJEC: Reversing Inequality  
Conference**

**When: April 3-5**

**Where: Washington DC**

For registration and more information  
Click [HERE](#)

**People's Climate March**

**When: Sat April 29, 9:00 AM**

**Where: Washington DC**

For more details, see

[Facebook Event Page](#)