



Newsletter Date: 2/6/17

We believe our faith calls us to change the world

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Mark your calendars - UU Mass Action Advocacy day is April 11th!

ACTION

Support Our Immigrant Rights Partners at Cosecha!

Cosecha is an immigrant rights and advocacy group, working for the permanent protection, dignity and respect of undocumented people in the United States. They were one of the main organizing groups behind the airport rally on Saturday January 28th.



Julia is a volunteer, coordinating meal donations as part of the Cosecha Allies group. The group's goal is to contribute practical and logistical support to Cosecha, which is led by members of immigrant and undocumented communities. You can help by cooking for weekly meetings, or delivering food to their office in Dorchester.

When: Thursday and Friday evenings

What: food for 16 organizers

Where: Cosecha, 14 Cushing Ave. St. Mary's Church in Dorchester

How: log in and make an account on Meal Train, and sign up for a time

<https://mealtrain.com/dmm&rl>

Contact Julia if you have questions, or want to volunteer to deliver meals that others have prepared.

juliagallogly@gmail.com

Sign on Letter for Ending Mass Incarceration

Led by the Coalition for Effective Public Safety (CEPS), a sign-on letter has been created demanding that state leaders make good on promises to improve fairness and outcomes for those in the system, reduce prison and jail populations, decrease recidivism, and cut prison costs. We also urge the Governor and legislators to take responsibility now in executive actions and legislation to address long-standing failings of the Department of Correction and the Parole Board.

Individuals and organizations are called to sign the letter which details what must be corrected in the criminal justice system.

We are also asking you to tell your legislators to call on Governor Charlie Baker, Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Ralph Gants, House Speaker Robert DeLeo, and Senate President Stanley Rosenberg to address the clear and profound disparate treatment of people of color in our justice system and to address necessary justice issues spelled out in the letter.

The full letter is here: <https://aclum.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/20170117-CSG-Letter.pdf>

Click [HERE](#) to Sign Your Name Please share it on facebook! Let's get 500 signatures by Feb 14th!

Build a Relationship with your Local Mosque

Building a relationship takes time and begins with a greeting, an outstretched hand and a willingness to listen. Are you willing to build a bridge between your congregation and your local Mosque? Many have an outreach coordinator and would welcome community support during these troubling times.

Below is a list provided by the UUSC to help you get started:

Boston: <http://isbcc.org/>

Quincy: <http://icne.net/>

Wayland: <http://www.icbwayland.org/>

Burlington: <http://www.icburlington.org/>

Worcester: <http://isgw.us/>

Cambridge: <http://isbcambridge.blogspot.com/>

Roxbury: <http://mosquepraiseallah.org/index.html>

Roxbury: <http://www.masjidalquran.org/homePage.html>

Western Mass: <http://www.masjidma.com/>

Lowell: <http://www.isgl.org/>

Malden: <http://maldenislamiccenter.org/mosque/>

Chelsea: <http://www.alhudasociety.org/>



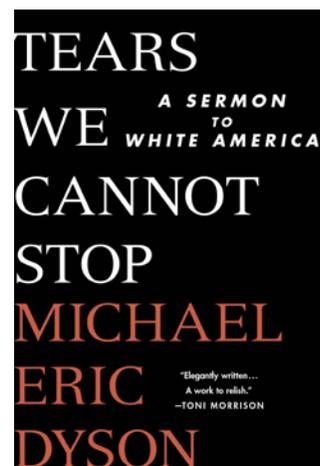
UUSC organized visit to Islamic Society, Boston. Shared by Hannah Hafter and Philip Hamilton

Fantastic New Book - a Must Read! *Laura Wagner, Executive Director*

I could not put down Michael Eric Dyson's new book, "Tears We Cannot Stop, a Sermon to White America."

I strongly encourage congregations to read this book. Creating space to discuss race; understand its impact and how to dismantle it, is integral to all of our social justice work. If your congregation has not already begun an anti-oppression/anti-racism group, today is a good day to start one!

If you would like assistance in developing an AR/AO group, please contact: Ken Wagner k.r.wagner@comcast.net. Ken leads an 8 week workshop titled: [Being White in a Racist World](#) and he is happy to guide you through your process.



Have you Signed the Declaration of Conscience Yet?

Please sign on to the UUA & UUSC (UU Service Committee) **Declaration of Conscience**. You'll find a joint letter from UUA President Rev. Peter Morales and UUSC President Tom Andrews and link to the Declaration [HERE](#)

Share Your Story With US!

- 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 Raise Up Mass coalition is adding stories to the website, along with pictures of the individuals are sharing their stories - Send to: Laura Wagner lwagner@uumassaction.org

What's happening with the Sanctuary Movement?

Where We Are

The new administration has made clear its intent to target the immigrant community, focusing on Latino and Muslim people. Last Friday's executive order banned people from seven Muslim countries from entering the US for 120 days. This policy has created chaos, stranded individuals and torn families apart. Green Card holders (permanent legal residents) and those granted visas were denied boarding passes and prevented from entering the US.



How We Are Responding

There's a rapidly developing network working to organize resistance to this oppressive policy. UU Mass Action is primarily working with: Cosecha Fe, MCAN (Mass Community Action Network), Episcopal City Mission & Brockton Interfaith and Boston New Sanctuary Movement. The network is developing rapidly! We are also in communication with the ACLU, The National Lawyers Guild, and UURISE (UU Refugee, Immigrant Services and Education).

There have been several interfaith organizing events since November. The sanctuary coalition is supporting congregations that are working through the discernment process while they consider

sanctuary. We are also building a network of support congregations that are willing to assist the congregations who offer physical sanctuary.

In addition, the coalition is developing a rapid response network to respond to immediate threats. There are also efforts to both increase the number of Sanctuary Cities and support the leadership of the existing ones where city officials have made a public commitment to support the people in their community.

Next Steps

1. Are you leading the effort to explore the many sanctuary options in your congregation? Let us know who you are so that we can keep in contact with you! Lwagner@uumassaction.org (If you've already attended a gathering, we already have your info)
2. Complete the Individual Supporter form, **Step 2** on the [webpage](#) Let us know what how you're willing to take action! Feel free to print these and make them available to your congregation.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

The House co-sponsorship deadline was Friday, February 3rd (Senators have more time, typically until the bill is in committee).

Next week I'll begin compiling the list of co-sponsors and updating the documents on our website. As soon as I learn committee placements, the spread sheet will be updated.

For legislation updates, go to the [legislation page](#) From here, you can:

- 1) Download the entire 2017-2018 legislation spreadsheet
- 2) Download the 2017-2018 Legislative Priorities one-sheet

Note: Links are not being provided for the two docs because when they are updated the link changes. Due to frequent revisions, it's best to check the legislation page and click the links you'll find on this page.

EVENTS, EDUCATION AND FORUMS

Looking for ways to live you values?

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

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.

Mobilizing Congregations for Justice

When: Tue Feb 7th, 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

HOSTED BY THE NEW ENGLAND REGION G.R.A.C.E. TEAM

(Growing Racial And Cultural Equity)

REGISTER NOW for 1, 2 or all 3 of these FREE online sessions

Banners 101

February 9th, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Are you or others in your congregation interested in hanging a Black Lives Matter



banner? Are you wondering what to consider, how to get congregational support, and what a good process might be? You are not alone. Others are asking the same questions you are and facing similar challenges. We'll share experiences from congregations who already have banners and learn together about pitfalls and successes.

Waking Up to Whiteness in Your Congregation

February 28, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Recent events have made it clearer to many that we do not live in a post-racial country. Whiteness is still the default culture in many of our institutions - including our congregations. Are you hoping to inspire and support your congregation to look at its culture to see how whiteness may be limiting your ministries and welcome? Whether you attended the GRACE Summit in November or not, you are sure to get some ideas for addressing whiteness in your congregation from this web conversation. We'll explore the concept of whiteness and consider strategies and best practices for lovingly waking folks up to whiteness.

Beyond Banners *TBA, mid-March*

So, your congregation has a Black Lives Matter banner. Now what? How do you continue your commitment to social and racial justice beyond the banner? Come learn with others who are considering the same questions you are. *[If interested, register now and we'll let you know when the date is as soon as it's set. We understand the date might not work for you and will adjust accordingly.]*

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.

Multi-Generational Non-Violent Direct Action Training

When: Sat Feb 11th 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

Organized by Climate Action Now and Sugar Shack Alliance

Beyond the Wall, Film screening and discussion with Jenny Phillips, director

When: Sat Feb 11th 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

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](#)

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](#)

Peace and Prayer for Humanity: Report from Standing Rock/DAPL Pipeline

When: Thur Feb 16, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Where: St. Mark's Church School, 18 Samoset St, Dorchester

Members of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, other Native American Tribes, and non-Native allies gathered in the thousands in North Dakota to prevent the building of an oil pipeline under the Missouri River by the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) Company, threatening the water source for 18 million people. The "Water Protectors" succeeded in halting the construction a few weeks ago, pending environmental assessments. But now Donald Trump has directed the Army Corps of Engineers to immediately approve the final step of the pipeline.

In the freezing cold, Native people are putting their bodies on the line and resisting this injustice by Trump. Thousands are joining them again, including our own community members. Together, they will be facing highly militarized forces. We must show equal fortitude!

Join us on February 16 to Plan Support for the Resistance!

Speakers:

MC: Judith Baker, Member, Dorchester People for Peace

Mariama White Hammond, Minister, Bethel AME Church

Emmy Rainwalker, Social Justice Activist and Support for Vets at Camp

Wyze Love, Native American Activist

Jude Glaubman, Water Protector Legal Collective at Standing

Criminal Justice in Massachusetts: How it's Broken and Ways to Fix it

When: Thus Feb 16, 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Where: Fist Parish in Concord, (In the Sanctuary)

Bryan Stevenson, lawyer and activist, has written: "We have a system of justice that treats you much better if you're rich and guilty than if you're poor and innocent."

In Massachusetts, many policies work against equal and fair treatment of citizens who enter the criminal justice system. Please join us for a panel discussion with three people who have been affected by unjust policies and/or worked toward reducing mass incarceration and its far reaching consequences for individuals and society at large. Leave with ideas of how you can participate in criminal justice reform.

Panel Members:

State Senator Mike Barrett, D-Lexington, Chair of the senate’s investigative committee

Clarence Blevins, recently released after serving a number of years in prison.

Louellyn Lambros steering committee member of EMIT (End Mass Incarceration Together, UU Mass Action leadership team)

Film: Gathering Our Hearts at Standing Rock

When: Sun Feb 26 at 1:00 PM

Where: UU Meeting House of South Berkshire, 1089 Main St in Housatonic

“GATHERING OUR HEARTS AT STANDING ROCK” a documentary in process by Fidel Moreno followed by a panel discussion of Standing Rock, the CT pipeline and water protection concerns closer to home.

[Facebook Event Page](#)

Creating Sanctuary - UU College of Social Justice and UURISE

This webinar will be led by the [UU College of Social Justice](#) and Katia Hansen, President and CEO of [UU Refugee & Immigrant Services and Education \(UURISE\)](#), and 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: 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>

RESOURCES

Sanctuary

[“A Radical Expansion of Sanctuary”](#) – Marisa Franco

<http://mijente.net/2017/01/27/sanctuary-report/> - an extensive game plan for “expanding sanctuary cities to protect all residents from criminalization and deportation”

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](#)