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Take Action Today

Building Safe Communities for All



May Day, Lawrence



May Day - East Boston & Chelsea



May Day, Framingham

Thank you to all of you who turned out for May Day International Worker Day Actions!

Here are two more **ACTIONS** you can take to protect those who are being targeted in our Commonwealth:

1. **Hearing today Pro-Immigrant Bill H.3033 - Please send in written testimony**

This important bill would end “287(g)” collaboration agreements between Massachusetts law enforcement agencies and ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement) that deputize law enforcement personnel with the powers of immigration officers and turn them loose in our communities. We need to support it – and also make the case for ending all collaboration with ICE, as the Safe Communities Act would do.

On Monday, May 8, at 1 p.m. the Joint Committee on the Judiciary will be hearing a key pro-immigrant bill, [H.3033](#) (An Act Relative to Enforcing Federal Law) sponsored by Rep. Cabral. The hearing is in **Rooms A-1 and A-2** on the first floor - please come if you happening to be in the area of the State House.

To find info about this bill and template to help you write your personal letter, [Click HERE](#)

2. Action: Send Messages of Support for the Safe Communities Act to the members of the Joint Committee on Public Safety & Homeland Security

This action began on April 29th - let's keep sending in those emails of supports!

Links to the Joint committee members and talking points can be found [HERE](#)

Please begin your email with your personal reasons why safety for ALL is important to you, then copy and paste the talking points into your email. You can just copy your letter and send it to everyone on the list.

Thank you for taking action - it's important that supporters' voices are loud and clear and that the committee members aren't confused by the false information being spread by the bill's opponents.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Upcoming in District Meetings: Hold your legislator accountable and Advocate for [Raising the Minimum Wage](#), [Paid Family And Medical Leave](#) and [The Fair Share Amendment](#)

Representative: Gailanne Cariddi

When: Mon May 8, 3:30 PM

Where: City Hall, North Adams, 10 E Main St.,
North Adams

Sponsor: MA Jobs with Justice

Representative: Joseph Wagner

When: Thur May 11, 3:00 PM

Where: River Mills Senior Center, 5 West Main
St., Chicopee

Sponsor: MA Jobs with Justice

Representative: Aaron Vega

When: Tue May 30, 6:00 PM

Where: Holyoke Public Library, 250 Chestnut St, Holyoke

Sponsor: SEIU 1199

CLIMATE ACTION

Attend a gathering of the MA Clean Energy Tour!

These are similar to Commonwealth Conversations - The Senate Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change is hosting hearings throughout the Commonwealth to get input from you on pressing issues in clean energy and climate. How do you think the legislature should keep our state healthy, sustainable and strong?

Dates & Location: Learn more, [HERE](#)

Click on this [LINK](#) if you'd like to send the Senate Committee an email or tweet about your ideas.

May 8: Mashpee, 6:00 PM @ Mashpee High School

May 9: Sudbury, 6:00 PM @ First Parish of Sudbury, UU

May 15: Melrose, 6:00 PM @ Melrose Memorial Hall

May 16: Taunton, 6:00 PM @ Benjamin Friedman Middle School

May 22: Weymouth, 6:00 PM @ Weymouth High School, Mary Jo Livingstone Humanity Center

June 12: Springfield, 6:00 PM @ TBD

June 19: Pittsfield, 6:00 PM @ Berkshire Community College

June 20: North Shore, 6:00 PM @ TBD

June 26: Boston, 6:00 PM @ TBD

Update from the Certified Working Group: Economic Equity in Politics

FROM VOTER CHOICE MA

Massachusetts voters deserve more choice on the ballot. Imagine an election where no candidate can play the "spoiler," no matter how many candidates run or parties participate. Imagine not feeling pressure to choose "the lesser of two evils." Imagine voting for who you want, why you want, knowing that election results will truly reflect the will of the voters.

The best way to imagine fair elections is to work to make them happen. It's time to bring Ranked Choice Voting to Massachusetts!

Ranked Choice Voting allows you to rank the candidates on your ballot in order of preference. It's as easy as 1, 2, 3, but this simple process has the power to remake our elections, and our democracy.

[Voter Choice MA](#) is your personal headquarters for learning about Ranked Choice Voting, and your portal for getting involved.

VCMA Monthly Meeting. Wednesday May 17th at 7PM. 50 Milk St, Boston, 18th floor kitchen. Learn the strategy. Join a breakout team. Drinks at the pub after. [RSVP here](#).

VCMA Southeast Region - Chapter Kickoff! Saturday May 20th at 2PM. 105 Jordan Rd, South Dartmouth, MA 02748. [RSVP here](#).

RCV Beer Election @ Aeronaut in Somerville w/ guest Rep. Mike Connolly. Monday May 22nd at 6PM. [RSVP here](#).

VCMA Central/Worcester Region - Chapter Meeting. Monday May 22nd at 6:30PM. [RSVP here](#).

To contact us or to join the Economic Equity in Politics Certified Working Group, please go to:
<http://lists.uua.org/mailman/listinfo/EEP-CWG>

From American Promise

From Boston to the Berkshires, citizens are stepping up for a statewide Ballot Initiative in 2018 that says People - Not Money, Not Corporations, Not Special Interests - Govern the United States. Help the Commonwealth join 18 other states and 800 cities and towns that have passed resolutions to overturn *Citizens United* and return to common sense limits on election spending.

The American Revolution began in the waters and woods of Massachusetts and our patriotism is rooted in the early days of democracy. Here we go again! Today, citizens of Massachusetts are once again rising to defend the nation. We are acting to put right what the Supreme Court got so wrong in the *Citizens United v FEC* ruling that opened the floodgates to global money that is drowning American democracy. Join American Promise and our allies for a Citizen Uprising workshop that will provide ALL OF US the training and tools we need to get Massachusetts ready for the 2018 ballot.

The Massachusetts Uprising has been building for:

- 1) a statewide ballot initiative to give voice to all Massachusetts citizens.
- 2) a big push for the *We the People Act* in this legislative session.

We are drafting the ballot language right now, and connecting people to help get the initiative on the 2018 ballot. At the same time, our friends at [We the People Massachusetts](#) are spearheading the [We the People Act](#), to get the 28th Amendment out to the states for ratification. It's ALL GOOD!

TWO FREE EVENTS IN MAY

All are welcome, so register today and bring groups of friends and neighbors who are tired of talk and ready to put passion into action. Please register and print and share our flyers from here:

[Boston Event - May 13th](#)

[Worcester Event - May 20th](#)

To contact us or to join the Economic Equity in Politics Certified Working Group, please go to:

<http://lists.uua.org/mailman/listinfo/EEP-CWG>

FIRST NATIONS

Mitakuyape (relative),

It is disheartening if not devastating to learn that the restrictions put in place by the Obama Administration on offshore oil and natural gas drilling are now being repealed by the Trump administration by the mere stroke of a pen.

My heart aches for my finned, four-legged, winged, creepy crawler, and plant relatives whose very

survival is at risk. We have an opportunity to act and speak for our relatives who cannot speak for themselves.

The Great Spirit is calling us to remain in prayer now more than ever. As indigenous peoples, our traditional religious ceremonies and cultural practices are central to our identity, existence, and survival. When we pray, we are one with our Unci Maka (Mother Earth), Mni Wiconi (the Water), our four-legged, winged, finned, creepy crawler, and plant relatives for we are all connected. By acknowledging the seven sacred directions in prayer, we will be honoring all that is life.

My husband and I will be hosting upcoming sacred prayer walks on the following dates and times.

Sunday, May 7th @ 8:00 am – 10:00 am
Sunday, May 14th @ 8:00 am – 10:00 am
Saturday, May 20th @ 8:00 am – 10:00 am

Sunday, May 21st @ 8:00 am – 10:00 am
Saturday, May 27th @ 8:00 am – 10:00 am
Sunday, May 28th @ 8:00 am – 10:00 am

The ceremony will begin with an opening prayer and smudge to help us walk in a sacred manner. As we walk around the entire lake, we will stop at various points to offer up a prayer in each of the seven sacred directions and smudge. We will conclude our sacred prayer walk with a smudge and silent meditation offering up our own personal prayers to the Creator, Mother Earth, and the Water.

We will meet at the band stand on the town common which is the wooden/granite structure overlooking Lake Quannapowitt in Wakefield, MA.

All are welcome. Please RSVP if you plan on attending (lfasthorse12@gmail.com). Please be on time. We ask that you come with an open heart, good intentions, and a willingness to share.

Please note: This will be a 3.36 mile walk so please be prepared to walk at minimum 2 hours. Use of cell phones is prohibited. No pictures or videos will be allowed. Please dress accordingly for the weather. Please bring your own water to keep hydrated. In the event of inclement weather, we will postpone the ceremony to the following date.

If anyone has any questions and/or needs to reach me, please feel free to contact me via email or at (781) 686-0692.

Pilamaye (thank you),

Lynette Fast Horse, Hunkpapa Lakota and enrolled member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
Steven Fast Horse

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

Key Information for Immigrants & Their Allies

When: Mon May 8, 6:00 - 7:45 PM

Where: Boston Public Library, Connolly Branch, 433 Centre St, Jamaica Plain

Janet Ceja and Monica Colón-Aguirre, professors at Simmons College, present this workshop on immigrant rights. Learn how to identify legal records, recognize warrants, and document raids. This workshop is designed for immigrants and allies with little to no knowledge about immigration rights. After attending the workshop participants will be able to:

- Identify essential records to prepare in case of detainment
 - Distinguish between an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Warrant and Judicial Warrant
 - Document raids
-

Sanctuary & Solidarity Event

When: Wed May 10 at 7:00 PM

Where: First Parish Church in Bedford, 75 Great Road, Bedford

Attorney and President of the American Immigration Lawyers' Association, Susan Church, will give a presentation at First Parish in Bedford. The presentation is designed to inform immigrants and their allies of their rights and to empower them in the era of significant ICE enforcement. In addition, Ms. Church will also be prepared to answer our questions about offering physical sanctuary and its legal implications. Don't miss this opportunity to become informed and, importantly, to prepare for the support of a person(s) in sanctuary at First Parish. AND, please do invite any immigrants you may know who would benefit from this presentation.

We'd like to get a sense of how many people will attend; so, please let Vito (vito@deblam.net) or Christine (chdudleymarling@gmail.com) know if you think you'll be able to join us. Thanks!

The 4th Annual Criminal Justice Reform Coalition Policy Summit

Finding Common Ground: To Move Comprehensive Criminal Justice Reform to the Top of the Legislative Agenda in the Commonwealth

When: Mon May 15, 9:00 AM (registration opens at 8:30 AM)

Where: Omni Parker House, 60 School St., Boston [REGISTER](#)

Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Ralph Gants, Congresswoman Katherine Clark, and Marc A. Levin, director of the Center for Effective Justice & Right on Crime, will each participate in the fourth annual Criminal Justice Reform Coalition Policy Summit.



The annual Criminal Justice Reform Coalition Summit brings together 300 leaders from around the Commonwealth interested in comprehensive reform. Participants include elected officials, policy makers, public safety and corrections officials, advocates, and civic and religious leaders from Massachusetts and beyond.

This year's program will feature a two-part conversation on justice reinvestment in Massachusetts, informed by a new opinion poll as well as new MassINC research. The first piece of the conversation is how to save resources and maintain public safety through sentencing reform. The second component is how these resources could be reinvested into other public safety efforts as well as proven programs and services to build stronger communities and improve outcomes for people who were formerly incarcerated.

Know Your Rights as an Immigrant

When: Mon May 15, 6:00 - 7:45 PM

Where: Boston Public Library, Connolly Branch, 433 Centre St, Jamaica Plain

The American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) and the Political Asylum/Immigration Representation (PAIR) Project will conduct a "Know Your Rights" presentation. Come learn more about your rights when interacting with immigration officials, understanding your legal status and the immigration court process, where to find trusted legal resources, and what programs might be available to you.

Push Back at Trump, Tillerson and Trotsky* - Join the Billionaire's Bash

When: Tue May 16, 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM [Flyer](#)

Where: Demonstration at The Ma Pension Fund (Prim) Office, 84 State Street, Boston

**M. Trotsky is the Exec. Dir. and CIO of the MA Pension Fund*

[Facebook Event Page](#)

Invited speakers/guests: divestment bill sponsor, Marjorie Decker; fossil fuel free investment expert Bob Massie; the Second Line Social Aid and Pleasure Society Brass Band

The PRIM (Pension Reserve Investment Management Board) has invested billions of state employees' and teachers' pension money in fossil fuel funds, including:

- almost \$2 billion in coal, gas and oil,
- \$200 million in Exxon Mobil, and
- over \$50 million in the companies building the Dakota Access Pipeline.

PRIM has steadfastly refused to consider divesting from these companies and it is time to shine a spotlight on their complicity with climate degradation and disruption. Experts agree that most fossil fuel reserves must remain underground if we are to have any chance of avoiding the most catastrophic

results of climate change. Now more than ever - with the CEO of Exxon Mobil as Secretary of State and climate deniers in high office - we must take a stand here in Massachusetts. JOIN US ON MAY 16! Stay tuned for more details. *Part of the May 2017 Global Divestment Mobilization*

A Conversation with Author Lisa Brooks, Author of the Common Pot

When: Fri May 19th, 6:30 PM

Where: Greenfield High School, 1 Lenox Ave, Greenfield (Auditorium)

Sponsored by All Souls, Greenfield - Free event

Lisa Brooks is Abenaki, and the Chair of the Indigenous Network at U Mass and the "5 Colleges" in the CT River Valley. This older (1982) but still excellent book focuses on the Connecticut River Valley region, and offers insight into the indigenous people's way of life prior to European contact. It also explores Indigenous leadership during extreme times of stress and violence up through King Phillips War.

Getting to Know Our Muslim Neighbors

When: Sun May 21 at 10:30 AM

Where: Unitarian Universalist Church of Weymouth, 83 Sea Street, Weymouth MA

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Weymouth is providing an opportunity for South Shore residents to get to know their Muslim neighbors. On Sunday, May 21, 2017 at 10:30 AM, Quincy Imam Khalid Nasr will be speaking about the tenets of Islam. Following the service, from 11:30 to 1:30pm, there will be a light lunch and discussion forum with Shareda Hosein, Retired Lieutenant Colonel US Army Reserves, about what it is like to be Muslim in America and how to support our Muslim neighbors.

Imam Khalid Nasr was born and educated in Egypt and has been serving the Quincy mosque since 2005. The Islamic Center of New England, which includes the mosques in Quincy and Sharon, has a combined membership of over 2000 Muslims from 36 different countries.

After 35 years of service in the US military, Retired Lieutenant Colonel Shareda Hosein serves as a Community Muslim Chaplain in the Greater Boston area. She engages the art of peacemaking through her participation and facilitation of interfaith programs, dialogues, workshops, and discussion panels

The event is free and open to the public. For food and planning purposes please register at www.uucweymouth.org (and click on the "Events" tab). For more information call Beau Rivers at [781-269-2023](tel:781-269-2023).

Upstander Workshop, With True Story Theater

When: Tue May 23, 6-8:30 PM

Where: Parish Hall, First Unitarian Society in Newton, Parish Hall, 1326 Washington Street, Newton
[FLYER](#)

Learn how to support people targeted by bigotry. Workshop includes dramatically exploring the challenges of intervening, short presentations and handouts, and role plays.

RSVP requested, but not required: <https://www.facebook.com/events/767326933416068/>

Refreshments & childcare provided. Facility is wheelchair accessible.
Free and open to the public. Donations welcomed.

Questions? kyrazn@gmail.com

Cosponsors: Jewish Voice for Peace - Boston, Newton Human Rights Commission, First Unitarian Society in Newton, Temple Shalom, The Walker Center, The Protestant Chaplaincy Council, Just Peace Players, Newton Highlands Congregational Church, West Suburban YMCA Food donated by BJ's

Beyond Barriers: Thriving in Occupied Palestine

When: Wed May 24, 6:30 PM

Where: First Parish Church in Cambridge, 3 Church St., Harvard Sq

[FLYER](#)

UU's for Justice in The Middle East--MA Chapter is co-sponsoring a fundraiser presentation by Mohammed Sawalha. Mohammed is the Executive Director and Founder of the Palestinian House of Friendship located near the Nablus Refugee Camp in occupied Palestine. He is also Professor of Linguistics at An Najah University in Nablus. PHF is nurturing young people on the West Bank through art, music, dance, and sports.

There will be music and refreshments. Free and open to the public.

For more information or RSVP: MEEG@firstparishcambridge.org

Co-Sponsors: The Middle East Education Group at First Parish Cambridge UU, American Friends of the Palestinian House of Friendship, and Jewish Voice for Peace Boston.

Learn How To Be An Active Upstander, Not a Passive Bystander

When: Wed May 24th, 5:15 PM- *Registration and Refreshments*; 6-9pm - *Training*

Where: Hope Central Church, 85 Seaverns Ave, Jamaica Plain

Join True Story Theater to develop skills to intervene if you witness identity-based harassment. As the Trump Administration continues its wave of racist, sexist, hateful, anti-Muslim, anti-Jewish, anti-immigrant sentiment, we all need to strengthen our skills to take concrete action to defend our Muslim friends, as well as all of the other communities that are directly impacted by Trump's policies.

4th Annual Pocumtuck Homelands Festival

When: Sat Aug 5, 10AM - 7:00 PM

Where: Unity Park, along Barton's Cove, Connecticut River (GPS: 56 First St, Turner Falls)

Free Event

Come enjoy this festival at beautiful Unity Park with nesting Eagles or waterfowl flying in the background of the Music Tent, over the River. Gather with 30 partaking artisans and crafts people, exhibits of crafts, canoes, jewelry, flutes, musicians, drum groups, elders, storytellers, a children's games tent, walking history tours, —visiting tepees and wiki-ups—and food. Take advantage of opportunities to purchase stunning art —basketry, jewelry and many crafts, and help make the Festival a success for our dedicated vendors!!

The Rowe Center Presents:

Robin Wall Kimmerer, the author of the absolutely stunning book” Braiding Sweetgrass.”

Robin Wall Kimmerer is a remarkable writer. Poetry flows through her veins, but primarily she is a Botanist—both a Western Scientist and a practitioner of Indigenous Ecological Knowledge (TEK), (Potawanami)



This event is scheduled for November 3-5 but it is expected to sell out fast - Register today!

[Register](#)

RESOURCES

UU Advocacy Day was great! We met with 73 legislators- but our work continues! We need to build relationship with our elected officials by keeping in touch with them on our priorities, inviting them to gatherings at your congregation, and meeting with them in district either individually or in small groups.

Help us keep track of what you learn at your meetings and let us know which bills you are speaking with your legislators about. You can download the legislative feedback form [HERE](#). You can also find it on our website www.uumassaction.org , under “Pathways” then click on “Legislation”

Attention Worship Committees -

Are you planning your worship calendar for next year? UU Mass Action would love to join you in leading a worship service! Please feel free to contact us. This is a great way to support the work of UU Mass Action and collaborate on our shared work! Thank you!

Laura Wagner, Executive Director (Justice Building Theme) lwagner@uumassaction.org

Evan Seitz, Climate Justice Organizer (Climate Justice Theme) eseitz@uumassaction.org