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## Take Action Today

### Keep Those Emails and Calls Coming!

#### Support the Safe Communities Act, Sign Up for Rapid Response

- Some communities, such as Framingham, report 2-3 people being detained per week
- Immigrant workers have always faced risks but now the exploitation is even worse and workers are at increased risk
- The Haitian community faces and end to TPS which will be catastrophic



### Updates on our Shared Progress:

- Our networks are still developing but there are enough strands of the web in place that Rapid Response is beginning to be utilized!
- On Monday, 18-year-old Christian was released from detention! His bail money was raised and his family was accompanied by an interfaith team led by ECCO. His release is a joyful success for justice!
- An outpouring of support has been given to the family of the injured worker, “Jose”. Click [HERE](#) to hear the NPR report on this story. “Jose” remains detained at Suffolk County House of Correction but there is a team in place working with this family. UU Mass Action will send out alerts when action is called for. Be sure that you’re on the list of supporters - complete an individual supporter form [HERE](#)
- There are 21 area clusters that have formed in our Commonwealth. Some have built strong networks and others are continuing to develop.
- Many from our UU congregations and many of our partners in the faith community called Governor Baker last week and asked him to advocate for the extension of Haitian TPS (Temporary Protected Status). [14 Mayors have advocated for an extension of TPS](#) including our own Mayor Marty Walsh [Haitian TPS Background Info](#)

## **Safe Communities Act**

**Come to the Joint Committee on Public Safety & Homeland Security Public Hearing:**

**When: Friday June 9<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 - 3:00 PM**

**Where: Hearing Room A1/ A2**

This hearing will be for this bill only. The hearing room has capacity for 200 people or so - but the plan is to fill the State House! We need to send a clear message of support for this bill and show up for vulnerable communities who are being subjected to oppression. This bill will:

- Prohibits any support for a Muslim registry
- Ensures basic due process rights
- Ensures that police resources are used to fight crime, not separate families
- Prohibits collaboration agreements
- Upholds constitutional standards
- Conforms to federal law

[S.1305 / H.3269 Fact Sheet](#)

[Background Information](#)

**Let UU Mass Action know if you are coming to this hearing: [Click Here](#)**

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## **ECONOMIC JUSTICE**

### **Hearings Scheduled**

**Paid Family & Medical Leave**: Tue **June 13, 1:00 PM**, hearing room B2

Join supporters for a briefing in room 327 at 11:30. After this, there will be an opportunity for lobbying and then you can go to the hearing

**Minimum Wage**: Tue **July 18, 1:00 PM**, hearing room B2

**The Constitutional Convention** will be Wed **June 14, 1:00 PM** in the House Chamber. Supporters of the Fair Share Amendment will meet at 11:30, across from the House Chamber (3<sup>rd</sup> floor).

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: Joseph Wagner**

When: Tue May 23, 3:15 PM  
Where: Chicopee Public Library, 449 Front St  
Sponsor: Mass Jobs With Justice

**Representative: Michael Day**

When: Thur June 1, 6:00 PM  
Where: Winchester Public Library, 80 Washington St.  
Sponsor: SEIU 888

**Representative: Aaron Michlewitz**

When: Thur May 25, 11:00 AM  
Where: State House, Rm 254  
Sponsor: Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action

**Representative: Aaron Vega**

When: Mon June 12, 5:30 PM  
Where: Holyoke Public Library, 250 Chestnut St, Holyoke  
Sponsor: SEIU 1199

**Representative: RoseLee Vincent**

When: Mon June 12, 1:00 PM  
Where: State House  
Sponsor: SEIU 32BJ

## 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](#)

- 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

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

## END MASS INCARCERATION

The Massachusetts Against Solitary Confinement Coalition is hiring a part-time campaign coordinator. Here is the link to the posting. <http://www.plsma.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/MASC-job-posting.pdf>.

## **Solitary Confinement**

### **This Documentary on Solitary is Powerful & Memorable**

*By Susan Tordella, EMIT Leadership Team*

Maine and Mississippi have both reduced use of solitary, also known as "segregation" or "SHU-Special Housing Unit," by 70 to 80 percent. We are rallying to end this cruel and unusual punishment in Massachusetts that typically makes matters worse instead of better.

PBS Frontline has crafted a powerful 2-hour documentary, "[Last Days of Solitary](#)" [available online for free](#). What makes this film so remarkable is that it humanizes the most dangerous and difficult to reach people who are incarcerated, and it takes us behind the barbed wire into places usually hidden from the public.

The camera brings us face-to-face with caged people in Maine, while officials transitioned 92 people back to general population over a few years, leaving eight in the unit. The new approach saves the state an estimated \$1 million a year because staffing solitary is so labor intensive.

This film is a must-see. Even watching 30 minutes will inform you on why and how we can change this practice often negatively impacts people for years, and does NOT necessarily add to institutional security.

Prisoners Legal Services of Massachusetts, a champion of rights of the incarcerated, created a 7-minute video of testimonies from Massachusetts residents who have suffered the torture of solitary.

Here is a sampling of bills Massachusetts activists are endorsing during the 2017-18 session. Please contact your state legislator, set up a face-to-face meeting and encourage him/her to support the bills.

### **Solitary Confinement Reform (S.1306/H.3071)**

*Lead Sponsors: Sen. Cynthia Creem, Rep. Ruth Balser, Sen. Jamie Eldridge, Rep. Russell Holmes.* These bills would end the practice of sentencing prisoners to long periods of isolated confinement. They would divert vulnerable groups (youth, pregnant women, those deaf, blind or in protective custody, prisoners with serious mental illness or likely to deteriorate, away from solitary confinement.

### **To Collect Data Regarding Solitary Confinement in MA Prisons (S.1286/H.3092)**

*Lead Sponsors: Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz and Rep. Christopher Markey.* Massachusetts corrections facilities are not required to make public information regarding our state's solitary confinement practices. This bill would require quarterly data relating to solitary confinement, including the age, disability status and racial composition of inmates, the length of time spent in solitary and the number of suicides.

## **Segregation Oversight (S.1297/H.2249)**

*Lead Sponsors: Sen. Cynthia Creem and Rep. Ruth Balser.* This bill would create a solitary confinement oversight committee to review data and make recommendations on the use of solitary confinement in Massachusetts.

## **Promote Humane Conditions of Confinement ([S.1296](#) / [H.2248](#))**

*Lead sponsors: Sen. Cynthia Creem and Rep. Ruth Balser.* Vulnerable populations, including those who have serious mental illness, should not be placed in solitary confinement. Those who are placed into segregation should have full access to regular mental health treatment, facility programming, disability accommodations and other humane services.

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## **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.

**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>

The next bi-monthly conference call of the UU Mass Action Certified Working Group (**CWG**): **Economic Equity in Politics** will be held on **Monday, June 12, 2017**, starting at **7 p.m.** Please feel free to join us. For a copy of the Draft Agenda (including call-in info) please click [HERE](#)

The next quarterly meeting of the UU Mass Action Certified Working Group **(CWG): Black Lives Matter** will be held on **Sunday, June 11, 2017, 2-4 p.m.** at First Unitarian Society Newton. Please feel free to join us. For a copy of the Draft Agenda (including a link to directions) please click [HERE](#)

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## 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.

**Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup> @ 8:00 am – 10:00 am**

**Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup> @ 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](mailto: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](tel:7816860692). Pilamaye (thank you),

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

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## 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*

### 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](mailto: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

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

**When: Wed May 24, 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.

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## **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](#)

[Facebook Event Page](#)

UU's for Justice in The Middle East--MA Chapter is co-sponsoring a fund-raiser 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](mailto: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.

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## **Boston Voices for Trade Justice**

**When: Wed May 24, 7:00 -9:00 PM**

**Where: St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 14 Cushing Ave. Dorchester**

*Behind the Strand Theatre. Free parking at Belden Sq. municipal lot. T bus lines 41, 15, 16*

What's at the root of political and economic migration?  
How does NAFTA affect immigrant communities in Boston?

### **A forum bringing together:**

Patricia Montes, Executive Director, Centro Presente: *Impact of Trade Deals on Central America*

Pablo Ruiz, Director, Community Action, SEIU/ Raise up MA: *Income Inequality in MA*

Larry Stoodt, Greater Boston Trade Justice: *The NAFTA Connection*

Gabriel Camacho, Immigration Program Coordinator, AFSC: *MA Legislative and Community Response*

Free Event. Register: [replacenafta.org/rsvp](http://replacenafta.org/rsvp). Contact: Liz King: [617-787-0165](tel:617-787-0165) [bking32@aol.com](mailto:bking32@aol.com)

Sponsor: Greater Boston Trade Justice see [FLYER](#) for co-sponsors

Resources: [Devastation in Mexico](#) [Renegotiating NAFTA](#)

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## **Conversations on Race**

**When: Mon May 25, 7:00 - 8:30 PM**

**Abbot Public Library, 235 Pleasant St, Marblehead**

We welcome people of all races and backgrounds to come together, listen and engage. Our hope is that this will be an opportunity to learn and grow, by hearing, and reflecting upon, each other's stories and

perspectives. We plan to continue these conversations, with a scheduled gathering on the third Monday of each month. [FACEBOOK](#)

Sponsor: Together North Shore

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### **No Escape from the Cape**

**When: Mon May 29, 11:00 - 2:00 PM**

**Where: Meet at the Christmas Tree Lot spaces along the Rte. 6 Guard Rail or in the lower Rte. 6A parking lot.**

Join us for an event to protest Entergy, NRC, FEMA and MEMA's plans to trap Cape Codders in harm's way during a Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station accident.

For more information contact Bill Maurer at 508-548-6221 or [wmmaurer@comcast.net](mailto:wmmaurer@comcast.net) Sponsored by the Cape Downwinders; <http://www.capedownwinders.info/>

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### **Community Conversation**

**with Betty Burkes, Meck Groot, Eleanor Hancock, and Ulric Johnson**

**When: Fri June 2, 7:00 - 9:30 PM**

**Where: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 138 Tremont St. Boston (Park St. Station) Fragrance Free**

Community engagement on the insights and issues of white racial awareness work, liberation frameworks with communities of color and the possibilities for building multi-racial beloved community. In a context in which all of us are "racially" conditioned, what are the spaces, frameworks and practices for liberation? What is the value of spaces for white people to educate and support each other around internalized racial superiority and white supremacy? How does this work connect to support multi-racial organizing for racial justice? How are POC communities sustaining the work of liberation in these times? What is the wisdom from those organizing for justice who have come before us? What changes do we need to build 'beloved community'?

*Betty Burkes is Board Chair of the Cambridge Insight Meditation Center; Meck Groot Eleanor Hancock is Director of White Awake (<https://whiteawake.org>) ; Ulric Johnson is Director of Transformation, Awareness, Growth and Vision (TAGVs)*

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### **Black Lives Matter Cambridge Symposium**

**When: Sat June 24, 9:00 AM - 7:45 PM**

**Where: Lesley University, Washburn Hall, 10 Philips Place, Cambridge**

BLM Cambridge is hosting a day-long symposium focused on achieving racial justice and social equity in the Metro-North, and beyond. Keynote speakers include BLM Co-Founder Patrisse Khan-Cullors, and Executive director of the Marsha P. Johnson Institute, Elle Hearn. Also featuring Future (Janaya Khan) and DiDi Delgado. Join us as we envision and work towards creating a lasting and equitable future!

Note: We encourage QT/POC and those with financial constraints to contact the organizers at [blmcambridge@gmail.com](mailto:blmcambridge@gmail.com) for sliding scale accommodations.

Register [HERE](#) [Facebook Page](#)

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#### **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!!

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**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](#)

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## **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](http://www.uumassaction.org) , under “Pathways” then click on “Legislation”

Hearings are beginning to be scheduled! Learn which bills have hearings scheduled [HERE](#)

Find out if your legislators sponsored the bill [HERE](#)

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## **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](mailto:lwagner@uumassaction.org)

Evan Seitz, Climate Justice Organizer (Climate Justice Theme) [eseitz@uumassaction.org](mailto:eseitz@uumassaction.org)