



Newsletter Date: 9/18/17

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**Want to make a difference for 1 million people? How about 6 million?**

**We need you to collect signatures at coffee hour!**



Signature gathering has begun! Will you collect signatures at coffee hour? It's easy!

Laura Wagner will train you and get you the petitions you'll need. UUs have pledged to collect 1,000 signatures – together, we can beat this goal! Sign up now! Contact Laura at: [lwagner@uumassaction.org](mailto:lwagner@uumassaction.org) or call 617-356-7737 [Watch the training video](#)

**1 million people will benefit from raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour**

**6 Million people will benefit from Paid Family & Medical Leave**

Thousands of workers earning minimum wage work three or more jobs and still can't afford the cost of groceries, housing, heating or other basic needs. That's wrong. No one who works full time should be paid so little that they cannot make ends meet.

The Paid Family & Medical Leave insurance program for most Massachusetts workers will provide up to 16 weeks of job-protected paid leave to care for a seriously ill or injured family member, to care for a new child, or meet family needs arising from a family member's active military service (family leave). It will also provide up to 26 weeks of job-protected paid leave to recover from a worker's own serious illness or injury (medical leave), or to care for a seriously ill or injured service member.

**Take Action for Economic Justice Today! Thank you!**

**New Podcast!**  
**UU Justice Connections**

[Interview with Justice Leaders at UU Meeting of South Berkshire](#)

This week we talk with Tommie Hutto-Blake, Al Blake and Gwendolyn Hampton VanSant at the UU Meeting of So. Berkshire. Listen in to learn more about this dynamic congregation and their justice work!



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**If your congregation is hesitant to take action for social justice, consider these words from William G. T. Shedd: “A ship is safe in the harbor, but that’s not what ships are for”**

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## **TAKE ACTION!**

### **Upcoming Hearings**

**Tues Sept. 19th** presents an exciting opportunity to join forces with fellow activists. Here's what's happening and how you can participate.

[Joint Committee on Telecommunication, Utilities and Energy H.2700/S.1876, Increase RPS and Ensure Compliance with GWSA & S1849 Transitioning to 100% Renewable, Room A2 at 1:00 PM](#)



Hearing room A2 is a small room. If you plan to arrive early and want to testify, that's encouraged. However, since most people won't even fit into the room, it's not the best strategy to just hang out there. With this in mind, here's the plan:

**Rally at 11:45 – 12:15:** outside, in front of the State House (we'll let you know if the location changes).

**Lobby, 12:15 – 12:45:** Stop by your legislators's office to lobby for these bills, plus additional [MA Power Forward Priorities](#).

**1:00 – 2:00:** Attend the hearing, if you can get into the room

[Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Hearing: S.1004/H.2365 Raise the Minimum Wage to \\$15, Gardner Auditorium 12:00 PM](#) [“The Cliff Effect”](#)

**10:30 -11:00 AM:** Rally and press conference, Room 222 in the State House

**11:00 – 11:50 AM:** Lobbying, stop by your legislator’s office and advocate for Paid Family & Medical Leave and Raising the Minimum Wage to \$15 per hour.

**12:00 – 5:00 PM:** Join the hearing in the Gardner Auditorium!

Climate activists are encouraged to join this hearing after you finish lobbying for climate priorities. We need more investment in clean, renewable energy in MA, which will create more living wage jobs. These two issues are closely intertwined. Let's support each other!

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**Tue Oct 3:** [Joint Committee on Telecommunication, Utilities and Energy](#)

**(time & location TBD)**

[S.1846/H.2706 Solar Power & the Green Economy](#), Sen. Eldridge /Rep. Mark

[S.1831/H.3396 Solar Power in Environmental Justice and Urban Comm](#), Sen. Chang Diaz/Rep. Holmes

**Tue Oct 10:** [Joint Committee on Public Service](#), (1:00 – 4:00 PM Room A2)

[H.3281 An Act Relative to Public Investment in Fossil Fuels, Rep. Decker](#)

**11:00 AM Advocacy Outreach.** Meet at the 4<sup>th</sup> floor coffee shop and look for the orange buttons. Submit written testimony to the Chairs of the Joint Committee on Public Service in support of the pension fund divestment bill (which would divest the fund from fossil fuels, starting with coal) before the fall hearing on the bill. It’s easy. Just [copy, paste and customize this draft testimony](#). It would be great if you could add something personal about why you are concerned about climate change. Then ask your friends to do the same. And if you haven't signed the petition to divest the pension fund from fossil fuels, you can sign it [here](#).

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**Tue Oct 17:** [Joint Committee on Telecommunication, Utilities and Energy](#)

**(time & location TBD)**

[S.1847/H.3400 Clarifying Authority & Responsibilities of DPU](#), Sen. Eldridge/ Rep. Kulik

[S.1855/H.2698 Protect Ratepayers from Pipeline Expansion Costs](#), Sen. Jehlen/Rep. Gordon

[S.1845/H.2683 Protect Consumers from Paying for Gas Leaks](#), Sen. Eldridge/Rep. Barber

**To access the legislation tracking sheet for all UU Mass Action legislative priorities, click [HERE](#)**

**Note: There are tabs at the bottom of the spreadsheet for each issue’s area**

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## TAKE ACTION FOR IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

Join this gathering where we will hear from immigrant rights leaders and learn how we can strengthen our resistance!

### Sanctuary Hood: Creating Sanctuary Everywhere

Featuring: Ravi Ragbir. Learn more about Ravi's story here: [Democracy Now!](#) [PRI Interview](#)

When: Saturday Oct 7, 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Where: 138 Tremont St, Boston (Cathedral of St. Paul)



[Web announcement](#)   [Facebook Page](#)   [Flyer](#)

- Beyond Accompaniment - meeting the needs of the immigrant communities
- Beyond Know Your Rights - keeping our communities safe
- Sanctuary Hood - creating sustainable, proactive sanctuary communities

Community activist, father, husband - Ravi Ragbir came to the US from Trinidad in 1991. He became a lawful permanent resident in 1994 but an immigration judge issued a final deportation order in 2017. He is scheduled for removal in January 2018.

Through his own struggle, Ravi became an activist working to support others in immigrant communities who also face being torn from their families and exiled from the US. Ravi founded the New Sanctuary Movement in NYC and is a dedicated leader and organizer fighting for human rights.

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LOVE  
*RESISTS*

[Love Resists](#)

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## TAKE ACTION FOR ENDING MASS INCARCERATION

### Make a Call to your Representative to Support Bold Criminal Justice Reform

We're in a critical two-week period for criminal justice reform. Over the next two weeks, House Judiciary Chair Claire Cronin will be talking to House members about criminal justice reform priorities.

Will you make a call to your state representative and let them know you want bold criminal justice reform to pass this session? Find your representative [HERE](#)

Find an overview of what's happening and a short call script [HERE](#). You don't need to be knowledgeable on specific bills - at this point in the process the End Mass Incarceration Together Team, along with our Criminal Justice Coalition members, are just trying to elevate criminal justice reform as a priority. House Judiciary Committee Chair Claire Cronin needs to hear this message and she, in turn, will get this message to House Speaker DeLeo.

Please make this one important call today! Thank you!

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## **UPDATES & ACTIONS FROM OUR CERTIFIED WORKING GROUPS**

### **ECONOMIC EQUITY IN POLITICS (CWG:EEP)**

#### **From Voter Choice MA**

In June, Voter Choice Massachusetts conducted a professional statewide poll and found that 20% of Massachusetts voters need more information about ranked choice voting, so now is the time for a statewide education and fundraising campaign, both of which are necessary to lay the groundwork for a strong victory on a 2020 ballot question.

We are speaking all over the state. We are giving 10-20 talks per month and would like to do even more. Please request a speaker to provide our slideshow presentation at your next community meeting. Visit: [http://www.voterchoicema.org/request\\_a\\_speaker](http://www.voterchoicema.org/request_a_speaker)

We are collecting endorsements from elected officials, political organizations, community, religious, and business organizations. Please connect us to organizations and prominent people you think would like to be added to our list of ranked choice voting endorsers.

We are embarking on a fundraising campaign to cover our monthly \$500 volunteer expenses and to hire professional organizers to ensure we thoroughly cover all parts of Massachusetts. Please become a member-supporter by giving \$10 per month or more. Give generously at: <http://voterchoicema.org/donate>

We are building up our local organizing chapters: from the Berkshires to the Cape and many metro areas in between. To find a local meeting near you, visit: <http://voterchoicema.org/calendar>

Remember to follow us on Facebook -- <http://facebook.com/voterchoicema>  
And Twitter <http://twitter.com/voterchoicema>

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## From American Promise

### Please Assist in Collecting Signatures for The Massachusetts Ballot Initiative in Support of The 28th Amendment.

Here is a summary of the ballot initiative text, the full submitted text can be found [HERE](#)  
The Citizens Commission Concerning a Constitutional Amendment for Government of the People Act

This Act establishes a non-partisan Citizens Commission to advance  
Massachusetts' policy in favor of amending the U.S. Constitution to affirm that:

- Corporations and other artificial entities do not possess the inalienable Constitutional rights of the People
- Campaign contributions and spending can be regulated and limited in order to eliminate the undue influence of money on elections and government

It is the intent of this Act:

- To protect the integrity and fairness of elections and government
- To prevent corruption
- To secure the right of all Americans to be represented and to participate in self-government as equal citizens
- To protect the freedom of speech, of the press, and other rights of all Americans
- To ensure the constitutionality of sound regulation and operation of corporations and other economic entities by the people.

We need to collect 65,000 signatures in 9 weeks between Sept. 20, 2017, and Nov. 22, 2017, to place this initiative on the Massachusetts ballot in 2018. Many volunteers will be needed to accomplish this important task and we need your help. Please go to <http://peoplegovernnotmoney.org/> to learn more and to volunteer. Thank you for your support!

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>

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## Help Spread the Word!

### 1,000,000 FUND ANNOUNCED TO HELP DREAMERS RENEW DACA BY OCTOBER 5

[Mission Asset Fund \(MAF\)](#) today announced it will provide \$1,000,000 in scholarships to 2,000+ Dreamers to pay for DACA renewals by the October 5 deadline.

Last week, the Trump administration announced that the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program is ending. DACA has provided security, safety, and a livelihood for 800,000 young people commonly known as "Dreamers." Of the 154,000 Dreamers eligible to renew their DACA permits before the program ends in six months, most will be able to cover the application costs themselves. For those Dreamers who are eligible for renewal but can't afford the \$495 application fee, MAF is stepping in with a solution now available nationwide: scholarships to help Dreamers renew their DACA status ([LC4DACA.org](http://LC4DACA.org)).

**Between now and the October 5 deadline, MAF will provide 2,000 Dreamers with scholarships of \$495 to renew their DACA permit.** Capital to finance these scholarships come from the DACA Renewal Fund, launched this week with growing support from the philanthropic community.

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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*

### How to Be an Effective Citizen Lobbyist

With State Senator Cindy Friedman and Colleen Kirby

When: Mon Sept 18, 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Where: 630 Massachusetts Ave, Arlington - First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Arlington (vestry)

Would you like to learn more about how to make your voice heard and influence government decisions? Join us for a conversation with State Senator Cindy Friedman and Colleen Kirby, the Criminal Justice Legislative Specialist for the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts and a member of First Parish Arlington's Mass Incarceration Working Group.

This free program is sponsored by First Parish Arlington's Mass Incarceration Working Group and is open to all. Questions? Email [end-mass-incarceration@firstparish.info](mailto:end-mass-incarceration@firstparish.info)

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### Next Quarterly Meeting: BLACK LIVES MATTER (CWG:BLM)

When: Sun Sept 24, 2:00 – 4:00 PM

Where: First Parish UU of Arlington, 630 Massachusetts Ave, Arlington (in the parlor)

You can find the Proposed Agenda & Discussion Covenant [HERE](#)

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### ACLU Freedom Agenda Lobby Day

When: Wed Sept 27, 9:30 AM – 2:00 PM

Where: State House, 24 Beacon Street, Boston [RSVP HERE](#)



From the Muslim travel ban and the repeal of DACA to dragnet deportations that are tearing apart loving families and entire communities, immigrants are under attack. And it's not just at the federal level.

We must defend the Lunn victory in the legislature by vigorously opposing Baker's bill — and push even harder to ensure that Massachusetts law enforcement agents don't spend a dime or lift a finger in the service of Trump's reckless anti-immigrant agenda.

Join us on Lobby Day and tell lawmakers: We don't want Massachusetts to have anything to do with Trump's deportation machine!

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### **"Nonviolent Civil Disobedience (NVCD) and the Age of Antifa"**

**Presented by Rev. Karlene Griffiths Sekou from BLM Boston and others**

**When: Thursday, September 28, 7pm – 9 pm**

**Where: First Parish in Brookline, 382 Walnut Street, Brookline, MA**

Please join us in a critical conversation regarding recent visibility of NVCD along with Antifa protests. From Charlottesville to Boston, peaceful protest strategies included alignment with the historical anti-fascism group known as Antifa. We will discuss the following questions:

- What is the legacy of Antifa?
- What role does it play in the BLM Movement and beyond?
- What role does it play in combating white supremacy?
- How do we understand the spectrum of strategic resistance?
- Join others in this courageous and critical conversation
- Help to debunk myths, deepen your own understanding, and share in respectful conversation about this important topic.

**This is a free event, but just so we can anticipate the number of people, please**

[Register](#)

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### **Anti-Racism Workshop Series - Facilitated by The Antiracism Collaborative**

**When: Sept 24th, Oct 1st, Oct 15th and Oct 22nd from 12:00pm – 2:30pm**

**(Includes a light lunch offered at 11:30am)**

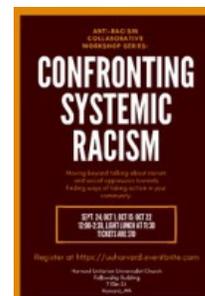
**Where: 7 Elm Street, Harvard, MA The Fellowship Building of the Harvard UU Church**

Cost: \$10 per person

Registration:

Step 1 – Receive your ticket from [Eventbrite](#)

Step 2 – Complete your registration form – [Registration form](#)



This course will focus on bridging a deep understanding of personal and structural racism into commitments and a solid plan to move forward! If you're looking to understand your experiential role in the dynamics of systemic racism or if you are interested in finding the next step in framing your role in social justice movements. This course is geared to move beyond talking about racism and social oppression and set on finding ways to take action, whether in your own personal sphere and in your community.

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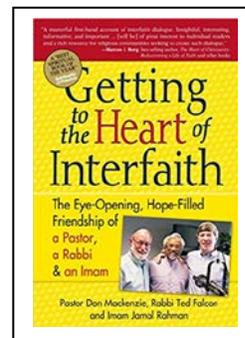
**Build Relationship with Our Neighbors at the Islamic Center of Boston, Wayland**

**The Interfaith Book Club Presents: Getting to the Heart of Interfaith**

**When: Sun Oct 15, 3:00 – 5:00 PM**

**Where: ICB Wayland, 126 Boston Post Rd, Wayland**

The story of a pastor, a rabbi and an imam and the friendship that grew out of their search for mutual understanding. RSVP here: [bookclub@icbwayland.org](mailto:bookclub@icbwayland.org)



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**Mendelsohn Lecture Series Presents: Passage at St. Augustine**

**When: Sun Oct 15, 4:00 PM**

**Where: UU Urban Ministry, 10 Putnam St, John Eliot Square, Roxbury**

[FLYER](#)

The story of the 1964 Black Lives Matter Movement that transformed America.

Documentary and panel discussion featuring film maker Clennon L. King and community activist Mimi Jones



This compelling documentary tells the story of the violent and bloody civil rights campaign in deeply segregated St. Augustine, Florida that led to the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Following the film, Clennon L. King and Mimi Jones will lead a guided discussion that interrogates the questions: what is our civic engagement role in moving justice forward? While it can feel like we're slipping backwards on race issues, are there ways society is moving forward in a positive way? How do we maintain hope that things can change for the better?

More about the film can be found here: [www.passageatstaugustine.com](http://www.passageatstaugustine.com)

*Free! This event has been made possible through generous support from: Mass Humanities and The Social Responsibility Council of First Parish Church in Bedford*

## **White Privilege Symposium on Cape Cod**

**When: Fri Oct 20 and Sat Oct 21**

**Where: Nauset Regional High School**



Register NOW: [www.regonline.com/wps-cc](http://www.regonline.com/wps-cc)

Cost: Adults \$100 College Students \$75 High School Students \$50

Discount for people who work at the conference.

Leaders and Friends on Cape Cod, in partnership with The Privilege Institute, we are pleased to announce the White Privilege Symposium on Cape Cod. This landmark symposium will take place at Nauset Regional High School on Friday October 20 and Saturday October 21, 2017.

In keeping with the annual, national White Privilege Conference (WPC), the White Privilege Symposium examines the challenging concepts of diversity, power, privilege, leadership and oppression, focusing on issues of systemic inequity through empowering courageous, educational and action-oriented programming. All workshops, keynotes and institutes will provide practical tips, tools and strategies for combating systemic inequities. We are excited about the theme of White Privilege Symposium on Cape Cod "Understanding & Challenging Privilege: One Ally at a Time."

#Accountability4Action

The Symposium is a unique opportunity to bring together high school and college students, teachers, university faculty and higher education professionals, non-profit staff, community leaders and activists, social workers and counselors, healthcare workers, members of the spiritual community and corporate arena, among many others.

Confirmed speakers include, but are not limited to: Jackie Battalora, Chuck Collins, Debby Irving, Peggy McIntosh, Eddie Moore, Jr., Jasiri X & many others.

For more information about being a sponsor please email [bjburgo19@gmail.com](mailto:bjburgo19@gmail.com)

or [emj@theprivilegeinstitute.com](mailto:emj@theprivilegeinstitute.com)

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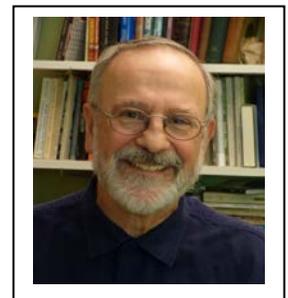
## **Speaking By Heart: The Art of Speaking Without a Manuscript**

**When: Nov 5 – 7, 2017**

**Where: The Rowe Center, Rowe MA**

Find a full description and Register [HERE](#)

Workshop Leader: Rev Stephen Shick





Are you a pastor, an activist, or someone yearning to communicate with greater effectiveness socially or in your business? Whether you're a seasoned speaker or you're about to face your first audience, or even if you're preparing to speak at a family gathering, do you have a feeling that you could be a better speaker — if only you knew how?

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### **UU Mass Action would love to visit your congregation this year!**

Let's work together on strengthening UU organizing in Massachusetts. Laura Wagner, Executive Director, or Evan Seitz, Climate Justice Organizer, will be happy to lead a service and meet with you after the service to discuss how we can better work together.

**Laura's Sermon title: Justice Stories.** At the center of any powerful movement, you'll find amazing individuals who are creating justice. What can we learn from each other and how will we create justice during these difficult times.



Give: [Hurricane Relief Fund](#)

