



Newsletter Date: 10/9/17

We believe our faith calls us to change the world

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TAKE ACTION

Comprehensive Criminal Justice Reform

Laura Wagner, Executive Director

What a week! The Senate bill S.2170 was released on 9/28 and is 114 pages! After many conversations with Senate leaders and coalition allies, UU Mass Action's End Mass Incarceration Team has made the decision to support the bill. We recognize that there is room for improvement, especially with Solitary Confinement Reform, and will continue to work with our partners in the MA Against Solitary Confinement Coalition to address these concerns.

Our ask: The Senate plans to vote on S.2170 on Oct 19th. Now is the time to call and send an email to your senator and ask for their support. To help you with this, we have [drafted a template](#) to help you get started. If you'd like more information about the bill, you can read Senator William Brownsberger's analysis [HERE](#). This link also connects you to the full bill, plus a section by section analysis



Once you send your letter, please let us know by [completing this short form](#)

Don't know who your State Senator is? Need their contact info? Find it [HERE](#)

Come to the State House rally in support of the Comprehensive Criminal Justice Reform Bill

When: Thursday Oct 12 at 11:00 AM, Grand Staircase

It's On!! UU Mass Action's Story Slam!

UU Mass Action Fundraiser and 4th Annual Story Slam!

A Story Slam is like the NPR show, "The Moth"

When: Sat Nov 4, 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Where: First Church Unitarian, Littleton 19 Foster St., Littleton



Early Bird

[Get your tickets today!](#)

\$30 for one ticket - Invite a friend! 2 or more tickets,

\$25 each – Early bird until 10/26

Starting 10/27 all online tickets and tickets at the door are \$40

If you want to purchase tickets by mail, send your check to:

PO Box 224, Greenbush, MA 02040 - Please write Story Slam in the memo line

This year we have another fabulous line up of six storytellers! Our emcee is 2015 storyteller finalist, **Rev. Robin Bartlett, Senior Pastor at First Church in Sterling, MA**, a multi-denominational church affiliated with the UUA and the UCC.

Our Storytellers are:

Rev. Lynda Sutherland, Minister, First Parish Church in Northboro

Rev. Ellen Rowse Spero, Minister, First Parish Unitarian Church in Chelmsford

Sam Wilson, Director of Youth Ministries, Minister, Winchester Unitarian Society

Rev. Jo Van Rue, Minister-in-Residence, First Parish in Concord

Rev. Dr. Steve Edington, First Church Unitarian, Littleton

and one more...soon to be announced!

Light refreshments will be served. Please support the work of UU Mass Action by having a great time at our annual Story Slam! Don't miss out – [get your tickets today!!](#) You need a fun night out!

CLIMATE ACTION UPDATES

Pipeline Tax – No!

The utilities and the pipeline company Enbridge are once again

lobbying our legislators to change their minds about the pipeline tax. Meanwhile, the utilities and



Enbridge are hoping that the regional energy regulator ISO New England will release a report supporting the myth that we need more natural gas. With the solar and wind industries flourishing, and Massachusetts leading the nation on efficiency, we know this isn't true.

What can you do?

1. Rep. Kulik and Rep. Gordon are preparing joint testimony directing the TUE committee to reform the DPU (Department of Public Utilities) and BAN the pipeline tax for good. [Starting this Tue \(tomorrow\)](#), call your state representative and ask them to sign onto that testimony.
2. Go to the State House hearing on Oct 17th.

Tue Oct 17: [Joint Committee on Telecommunication, Utilities and Energy](#) (time & location TBD – likely 1:00 PM)

[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

Divestment Hearing Tomorrow:

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

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

11:00 AM Advocacy Outreach. Meet at the 4th 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](#).

Mass Power Forward is a coalition of over 150 organizations that are committed to climate action. UU Mass Action is a member of this coalition

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

Thurs Oct 12 [The Joint Committee on Election Laws](#) (2:00-5:00 PM, Room B1)

S.379 [We the People Act](#)

A large turnout of supporters at this hearing will send a strong message to legislators about the importance of this bill to the people of Massachusetts. It will be one of the best opportunities to speak directly to legislators about the need for getting money out of politics and asserting that corporations are not people. It is also a unique civic experience. Attendees are needed as audience and testifiers.

Each speaker/testifier will be allowed 2 to 3 minutes at most to speak. Anyone speaking should rehearse what s/he will say. Heartfelt, genuine concerns of citizens have a great impact on our legislators. At public hearings, the committee wants to know why a particular bill should be given their support.

Please contact Leo Immonen with the names of anyone who is likely to attend or testify. You can either send E-Mail to LImmonen@verizon.net or phone him at **508-384-5306**.

If you cannot attend the hearing, your input is still valued. Tell the committee why passing this bill is important to you by emailing your support to the committee co-chairs:

Senator Anne Gobi - anne.gobi@MaSenate.gov

Representative John Mahoney - john.mahoney@MaHouse.gov

Oct 12 [The Joint Committee on Election Laws](#) (2:00 PM, Room B1)

Please arrive at 1:30PM so we can prep for the hearing at 2PM. Here are the bills:

[S.380 / H.2897](#) **“An Act providing a local option for ranked choice voting in city or town elections”**

[H.377](#) **“An Act to promote better voting practices”** — “[use of ranked choice voting for state offices:] governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of the commonwealth, state treasurer, state auditor, and representative and senator in the general court.”

The plan is simple: dominate this hearing. We want to pack the room with at least 50 supporters, with everyone wearing our Voter Choice Massachusetts t-shirts. If you've already got one, bring it. If not, bring \$20 for us ([or make a generous donation right now](#)) and we'll give you a t-shirt right outside the hearing room (we have all sizes and a beautiful color selection). We'll have volunteers doing photos and video -- what a sight to behold!

If you want to testify: [1] Get to the hearing room (B-1) at 1:30PM on October 12th. Don't be late! [2] Keep your remarks brief (under two minutes) and most importantly, personal. Use real examples whenever possible - perhaps times when you felt frustrated as a voter because of a spoiler, or a crowded field, or just wanting your vote to be more powerful by choosing more than one, or you want better representation by not throwing

your vote away. Or talk about how your city or town can save much-needed dollars by combining preliminary and final elections into a simple instant runoff election. Or how you are sick and tired of negative campaigning; and ranked choice voting can help us bring civility and consensus back into our civic life by incentivizing candidates to pick up 2nd and 3rd rankings from voters outside of their base. Check out [our About page](#) for more talking points.

If you can't make it to the hearing, you can send testimony to all members of the Joint Committee on Election Laws by emailing: Henry.Kahn@masenate.gov

Here is [a great script](#) to use for our (more viable) local option bill

EVENTS, EDUCATION AND FORUMS

Looking for ways to live your values?

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

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

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

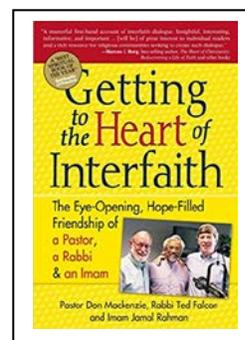
When: Sun Oct 15, 3:00 – 5:00 PM

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.

Join the conversation – it's ok if you don't read the book

RSVP here: bookclub@icbwayland.org



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

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

Mobilizing Congregations for Justice

When: Sun Oct 15, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Where: First Universalist Society (Unitarian Universalist), 262 Chestnut Street, Franklin

Suggested donation: \$20 per person, Pre-registration not required

Congregations can be a powerful force when mobilized for justice work. This training will teach, model, and practice three 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. Our trainer, Matt Meyer, 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.

Matt Meyer is a founding organizer for the Greater Boston Chamber of Cooperatives. He is also founder of two housing cooperatives and the Boston Cooperative Investment Club, and has lent a hand on environmental, labor, and legislative campaigns.

For more information: Contact Vicki Coates, vickicoates@comcast.net

Sustainable House of Worship (SHOW) Workshop

When: Sun Oct 15, 1:30 to 5:30 PM [FLYER](#)

Where: First Church of Christ Longmeadow, 163 Longmeadow Street, Longmeadow, MA

Leading by example can be a powerful part of our moral responsibility to care for creation. Reducing the carbon footprints at our houses of worship will lower energy bills and free up funds needed for other important purposes. Participants will learn about solar power; how to upgrade electrical, heating & AC equipment; the building envelope; and the need to change behaviors.

Register in advance at <http://conta.cc/2rsBUAh>. Fee is \$20 payable online or at the door
1:30 -2:00 PM: Refreshments, registration and networking/ 2-5 PM Workshop presentations
For more information, contact Vince Maraventano at vince@MIPandL.org or [617-244-0755](tel:617-244-0755).

All faiths welcome! Two participants from each congregation are encouraged to attend.

The Famous Days in Solidarity with African People!

When: Tue Oct 17, 7:00-9:30 PM

Where: First Baptist Church in JP, 633 Centre Street, Jamaica Plain

Do you want to be part of history in the making? If Malcolm X were alive today, would you want to hear him speak? Come to the historic Day in Solidarity with African People, a free event in a national speaking tour coming to Boston on Oct 17th! Come hear Akile Anai, a 20-year old African woman straight from the working class, who ran for office in Florida on a platform of reparations to the Black community; as well as keynote speaker Chairman Omali Yeshitela, an internationally respected Black Power freedom fighter, also of the working class, and leader of the Uhuru Movement for nearly 50 years!

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

Unity Through Reparations! End the genocide against African and Indigenous people!

Uhuru Solidarity Movement is the organization of white people created by and accountable to the African People's Socialist Party, organizing in the white community for reparations to African people and in solidarity with oppressed peoples everywhere.

Decommissioning the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant

When: Wed Oct 18, 2:30 – 4:30 PM

Where: Cape Cod Community College, Lecture Hall A, 2240 Iyannough Rd, West Barnstable

What decommissioning involves and what should be done to protect our health, our environment and our wallets. Featuring PLAC (Plymouth Legislative Advisory Coalition) Members: Mary Lampert of Pilgrim Watch, Dr. Jim Garb and David Agnew. Slide show presentation and Q & A session.

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

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 or emj@theprivilegeinstitute.com

Citizens Uniting to Restore the Republic

Presented by UU Mass Action Economic Equity in Politics Certified Working Group

When: Fri October 27, 7-9 PM

Where: Unitarian Church of Marlborough Hudson, 80 Main Street, Hudson

Learn about local initiatives to combat the corrupting influence of money in politics and advance the ideal of "one person, one vote."

Civics Matters: promoting forums for information that matters

Presenters from:

- American Promise
- We The People MA
- Respresent.Us: Boston
- Voter Choice Massachusetts

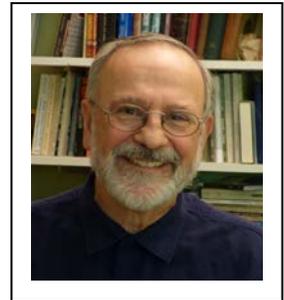
Co-Sponsors: Concerned & Informed Voter Collaborative, Hudson Democratic Town Committee, Hudson Republican Town Committee, Sawyer Hill Resistance [Facebook](#) Event Page [FLYER](#)

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?

Student Immigrant Movement Annual Celebration:

A Legacy of Resistance

When: Fri Nov 10, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Where: Veronica Robles Cultural Center, 175 McClellan Hwy, East Boston [Register](#)



Join the [Student Immigrant Movement](#) to Celebrate a year of defiance in the face of Trump, and welcome SIM's new leadership to the staff. If you're not able to attend but would like to donate a ticket to a low-income student, click [HERE](#)

Winona LaDuke: Celebrating a Decade of Community Conversations

When: Fri Dec 8, 7:00 – 11:00 PM

Where: First Church in Jamaica Plain, 6 Eliot St, Jamaica Plain

[Tickets](#)



We would like to invite you, on behalf of the Jamaica Plain Forum, to Celebrating a Decade of Community Conversations on Sunday, November 5th, featuring Winona LaDuke of Honor Our Earth as keynote speaker.

Winona LaDuke is an internationally renowned activist working on issues of sustainable development renewable energy and food systems. She lives and works on the White Earth reservation in northern Minnesota, and is a two time vice presidential candidate for the Green Party. [Learn more](#)

Where Does It Hurt? Overcoming the Pain of White Supremacy

When: Dec 8 – 10

Where: The Rowe Center, 22 Kings Highways, Rowe MA

With Ruby Sales, M.Div

Join this civil right legend and educator for a spiritual perspective that offers a vision of love through which we could become new people.



To register and more details, click [HERE](#)

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 worship 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.