

**UUSJ Committee and Task Force Reports  
for February 4, 2017 UUSJ Board Meeting**

**Reports Submitted as of January 31, 2017:**

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**Committees that did not submit a report or had no new information to report since the last Board meeting:**

- Audit Committee (not a standing committee)
- Gala Planning Committee (not a standing committee)
- Governance Task Force (formerly Bylaws and Standard Operations Committee; not a standing committee)
- Issue Selection Process Task Force (not a standing committee)
- Nominating Committee

## Advocacy Oversight Committee Report – January 27, 2017

### Members

Bob Denniston, Anna Rhee, David Strauss, Larry Underwood

The roots of this committee go back to mid-year 2015 as an informal advisory (ad hoc) group, which helped advise and guide UUSJ through our programmatic pivot to advocacy. Thank you to Larry Underwood, David Strauss, and Adam Wasserman for their service, and input from Gary Magnuson on our UUSJ Advocacy Guidelines.

The group is now formalized with members Larry Underwood, (climate/environment) BRUU, David Strauss, (immigration) Rockville, Bob Denniston, (escalating income inequality) Arlington, Anna Rhee and Lavona Grow. We are the coordinating body for UUSJ's advocacy activities, materials, infrastructure to support advocacy work and to help identify, guide and provide feedback regarding UUSJ's advocacy program opportunities. We are pleased to report on several exciting developments since the September Board meeting. The report includes advocacy-related actions in issue groups, which should be reported in greater detail in their individual reports to the Board.

### Washington Interfaith Staff Community (WISC) UUA Representative - Lavona Grow

Lavona continues as the UUA representative to the WISC-Environment and Ecology Working Group, participating in face-to-face meetings every two weeks, and once per month phone meetings. Lavona participates in periodic Hill visits with other working group members. She notifies UUA staff of opportunities to sign on to interfaith letters. As a WISC member she attends the monthly all WISC meetings, which include training, briefing, and strategizing sessions. On January 24, she participated in the annual WISC retreat where they spent half their time power mapping Senator targets who may be key in providing swing votes on critical issues on a variety of WISC issues. We anticipate working with UU State Action Networks to expand our advocacy efforts beyond our regional Members of Congress.

As a member of the interfaith community, she attended two briefings organized by the Department of State's Office of Religion and Global Affairs. On November 3, she attending a briefing on the then upcoming COP 23 meetings by the Chief Envoy on Climate Change, that focused on the implementation phase of the Paris Agreement (UUSJ climate change advocacy priority); and on January 17 attended a briefing on the Green Climate Fund (GCF), UUSJ climate change advocacy priority), with the US GCF Board representative, Leo Martinez-Diez. With the transition soon to take place to the new administration, information was provided about transition staffing. Since the meeting, it is no longer certain that the Office of Religion and Global Affairs will continue. It has played a critical liaison role with the faith community and UU's established an ongoing working relationship with staff. This is also true of the DOS Chief Envoy's Office for Climate staff.

### Issue Advocacy Groups

- **Immigration** - the UUSJ immigration task force made several targeted visits this Fall to Capitol Hill offices on the issue of mandatory detention bed quotas.

- **Environment and Climate Justice/Green Activists** - January 12 held an ad hoc group meeting to make recommendations on federal level priority issues to the larger Green Activist group and the UUSJ Board. Recommendations were also made on state issues for tracking and partnering with other groups like IP&L, Sierra Club Northern Virginia and the UU Legislative Ministry - Maryland. It is understood that state legislative action is not within UUSJ's scope. Concern was raised that since the UULM-Virginia does not include issues on the environment and climate change as part of its legislative priorities then shouldn't UUSJ step up and become active in Virginia. Group consensus was that we should encourage UUs to work with our state partner organizations. UUSJ as always would promote actions at the state level through our communications channels. Two members will approach the UULM-Virginia to discuss their intentions related to the environment and climate change issues.
- **Escalating (income) Inequality** - The new group was launched in August and has been meeting monthly but not on any regular schedule. August through early November was focused on research on issues for an advocacy agenda. While the draft Statement of Conscience on Escalating Inequality was released in mid-November, collective work was undertaken to review and provide comments. The group assessed the strengths and weaknesses of the draft, then developed specific and detailed recommendations for area congregations to consider in preparing their formal response to the UUA by the February 1 deadline. In December, UUSJ hosted Chuck Collins, a UU and author who works with the Institute of Policy Studies. Lavona met with him in October and he agreed to provide an advocacy framework for our consideration, which would also be used with the planning for the Reversing Inequality Conference April 3-5 (day three will be a lobby day). Chuck met with our group for a one hour meeting on December xx to discuss legislative prospects in a post-election reality. At the next Task Group meeting on February 5 at 7pm they will return to work to set an advocacy agenda.

#### Congregational Advocacy Training (CAT) Program

Led by Lavona Grow and Anna Rhee (UUSJ Advocacy Program Consultant), this three hour cornerstone UUSJ training program was delivered to three area congregations to nearly 70 people. Participants learned and role played how to organize and deliver effective face-to-face advocacy meeting with a member of Congress or their staff. Sessions were held:

- December 4 Accotink - an abbreviated 40 minute training as part of a larger panel discussion on upcoming Virginia and Federal legislative issues.
- December 10, Mt. Vernon
- January 15, Fairfax

On the horizon: We are anticipating an invitation from two additional Virginia congregation to conduct the CAT program. Pablo and Lavona are presenting a 90 minute version of the training at the Seminary in a Day on February 18.

2016-2017 Goal - to present the program in four congregations.

Question: For the three sessions mentioned above no fee has been asked except for photocopying of materials. Should we charge a fee to member congregations to cover costs; non-member

congregations; ask for a goodwill offering from participants; fund through other sources, etc? Funding of our key advocacy consultant, Anna Rhee, must be addressed.

### UUSJ Capitol Hill Advocacy Corps

We are launching this important program on February 14, and none too soon. As the new 115th Congress and Administration roll back progress on issues UUs care about and fought for, this is a critical time for us to take our liberal religious voice to policymakers in Washington.

We are mobilizing and need UUs willing to make regular monthly visits to Members of Congress and their staff on UUSJ priority issues of immigration, the environment and climate change, and escalating income inequality, among other UU issues that protect human rights, our planet, all living beings, and our democracy.

2016-2017 Goal - to build a pool of 6-8 Advocacy Corp volunteers that are willing to take our UU voice and values to the Hill each month. To include an additional 6-8 volunteers to participate on monthly lobby days.

On the near horizon: A rescheduled meeting with Evan Junker, the Executive Director of UU Justice Ministry of California, to discuss a nationwide advocacy network, and a pending discussion with the Coalition of UU State Action Networks (CUUSAN) executive committee regarding our potential relationship with them.

Question: UUSJ has stated for a few years that we aspire to going nationwide. In our UU World ads we proclaimed “we are your messenger on Capitol Hill.” As we now go to the Hill with our Advocacy Corps, it would be of greatest impact if we were visiting offices of more than just those in our region.

- Is the Board committed to moving UUSJ to go nationwide in our advocacy efforts?
- If so, what is our transition plan?
- How will it be funded and does our infrastructure and governance structure support such a transition?
- How does that impact the model of member congregations?

Submitted by: Lavona Grow, Chair

## Communications Committee Report – January 24, 2017

### Members

Bill Alsmeyer-Johnson, Bob Denniston

### New Website

The new website went live in early December using the new theme from the UUA. The new site is responsive, meaning that it is dynamically reformatted to fit the device it is being displayed on. To get a view of what the website will look like on various width screens, go to <http://mattkersley.com/responsive/>.

When the site was set up content was moved from the old live site (<http://uusj.net/wp>) to the new site (<http://uusj.net/wp1>). It is unlikely but still possible that some content was missed and so there will be missing pictures or documents or possibly missing pages.

If you encounter something missing or if you have a broken link then send an email to [web@uusj.org](mailto:web@uusj.org). Please be specific, please provide the page where the content is missing or if a link is broken please provide the link you tried using. Also please provide a phone number as that may speed up the process of fixing the problem.

### Linking

Please go to your congregation's website and make certain that it has a link to UUSJ.org that is easy to find, contains descriptive text about UUSJ and that the link works. You should double check this information and link periodically.

### Security

During a Communications Committee meeting it was mentioned that our website is not secure and therefore at least one person did not feel safe making an online contribution. This statement is only partially true. While "UUSJ.ORG" is not secure, we do not use "UUSJ.ORG" to collect information. When someone clicks on the "DONATE" button on our website they are taken to a different website, to an online form on the "SALSA LABS" website, and that site IS secure.

You can tell if a website is secure by looking in the address bar of your browser. If you see an "unlocked" pad lock symbol then the site is not secure. If you see a "locked" pad lock symbol then the site is secure.

Our site at "UUSJ.ORG" is not secure for a variety of reasons:

- Our site is hosted on a server that concurrently hosts many other websites which is the lowest price option for us.
- A secure site would require a special certificate, and would have to be hosted on a dedicated server costing more.
- We do not collect or store information using the "UUSJ.ORG" website, we simply dispense information through it.

All of our sign up and information collecting links transfer the user to an online form that looks somewhat like our website (by design) but is actually on <http://salsalabs.com>. Salsa Labs has good security for all the information it collects. Salsa does not maintain any credit card information used to make an online donation. That information is sent to the merchant gateway they work with, called Democracy Engine. For online donations or payments for events we do not have access to any credit card information. We can only see the amount of the transaction and whether it was successful or not.

### **Communications Committee Needs**

#### 1. New Members

We need new members with ideas for expanding our outreach and time to help with the efforts. Communications Committee members meet via ZOOM.

#### 2. Volunteer Support Staff

A volunteer staff person would be able to assist Elizabeth in posting articles to the website, to Facebook and Twitter. He or she would get short work assignments directly from Elizabeth. She often has many things pulling at her available time, so like it is at my church with our volunteer staff, in such cases Elizabeth would forward an article or event to the volunteer to post on the website or Facebook or Twitter.

A volunteer could also help with articles or event announcements that are not very well formatted to fit our standards.

#### 3. Photographers

We need more people to take pictures at events, to take portraits. Bob and Bill take pictures but occasionally cannot do so therefore it would be helpful having others come to UUSJ events and take pictures for posting to the website, to Facebook, or Twitter, would be most useful.

#### 4. Videographers

Bob has taken videos of our members speaking of their involvement in social justice for posting to our website. It would also be nice to have someone with skills of taking videos as well as editing them of events that UUSJ and its members are involved in.

#### 5. Social Media Helpers

We could use people with experience in using social media of all types effectively to generate interest in UUSJ.

As part of the eNews process, we'd like articles or events that are not posted to our calendar to be posted to Facebook, Twitter, and perhaps to our calendar. If Elizabeth, do

to her workload, cannot get to posting them then a volunteer could get them posted in a timely manner. Again Elizabeth would task the volunteer.

#### 6. General Worker

As part of the Communications Committee work we need people to do some of the following tasks:

- a. At least twice a year contact each board member to make sure we have the current communications contact for their congregation as well as the current social justice chair and church administrator.
- b. When we have special events such as the Ciderfest (or others) that we contact each board member, along with the communications contact for their congregation, to be sure information about the event is posted to the best place(s) to inform their congregation members. (For the Ciderfest we actually paid people to make calls.)
- c. Look within their own congregations for sources of commentaries or people with good writing skills to write commentaries.

Submitted by: Bill Alsmeyer-Johnson

## **Green Activists Meeting Draft Notes serving as the Environment and Climate Justice Task Force Report – January 31, 2017**

### **UUSJ Green Activists - Environment and Climate Justice Task Force January 14, 2017 - Zoom Online Video Conference Meeting**

Safety first - we changed from a face-to-face meeting at UUC Rockville to Zoom video online meeting due to ice storm predictions for the morning of our meeting. Many thanks to Julia Santerre and UUC Rockville for hosting, and we will return to you again for a later meeting.

#### **Participating via Zoom and Phone (19 participants):**

Lavona Grow - UUC Arlington and UUSJ  
Bob Dennison - UUC Arlington  
Doris Marlin - All Souls Church Unitarian  
Susan Rogers - All Souls Church Unitarian  
Lee Stuart - All Souls Church Unitarian  
Jack Lebowitz - UUC River Road  
Marty Mackenzie - UUC Towson and UUSJ  
Len Cohen - UUC Rockville  
Julia Santerre - UU Rockville  
Larry Underwood - Bull Run UU and UUSJ  
Al Carlson - UUC Reston and UUSJ  
Eric Goplerud - UUC Fairfax  
Nils Bjork - UUC Fairfax  
John Kester - Washington Ethical Society  
Margery Knight - UU Annapolis, former staff at UULM-Maryland - Still working on Climate  
Donneby Smith - UU Silver Spring  
Marsha White- Accotink UUC  
Pam Cox - Accotink UUC  
Rachel Perry - Davies Memorial UUC

**Opening words:** Favorite poem of Julia Santerre's kids.

**Facilitator:** Doris Marlin, All Souls Church Unitarian

#### **Review Agenda**

##### **Introductions**

**General Purpose of our meetings:** To collaborate and build relationships among national capital region UUs related to environment and climate justice.

**Check-in:** Doris asked everyone to address the **Elephant in the Room** - What are your plans for next two weeks during the Administration transition? Participants described what they and their congregations are doing during the Administration transition. Many are supporting travelers coming to town, others described events, some open some only open to congregation members. [Since all the activities are in the past, the information has been moved below the notes from the meeting]

**Lee Stewart's Announcement (ASC):** UU Young Adults for Climate Justice - participation from US and Canada - 100 Services Project - 100 services or special climate justice events

delivered by young adults by next Justice assembly - Open to all in DC area, you can be older than 35 or younger 18 to participate - to help with planning contact Lee at [jlstewct@gmail.com](mailto:jlstewct@gmail.com). Next step is to come together with the others who have volunteered and decide what to do. Planning meeting date to be set.

**Organizational Structure & Relationship Ad Hoc Group Report  
(was not discussed in its entirety during the January 14 meeting. Below is an unofficial summary of the January 7 Ad Hoc Meeting. )**

**January 7, 2017 Ad Hoc Group Meeting at Bull Run UU Church**

Members of the group: John Gubbings (not present at today's, January 14 meeting), Eric, Doris, Bob, Lavona, and Nils. John and Lavona provided background on the organizational structure and resources of UUSJ (501c3 with an H election). The group conducted a mini-SWOT analysis - Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats of UUSJ. Lavona explained a strength of UUSJ is its formal relationships with the UUA, UUSC, Washington Interfaith Staff Community (WISC), of which she is a UUA representative on the WISC Ecology and Environment Working Group, and some other partner organizations.

Following is a summary of the decisions and discussion:

- 1) It was agreed that the regional group that has been meeting quarterly, shall clearly fall under UUSJ. There are three UUSJ issue priorities immigration, escalating income inequality and environment and climate change with corresponding issues groups .
- 2) At least two group names have been used over time and it was agreed that "UUSJ Green Activists" would continue to be used as the short reference to the Environment and Climate Justice Task Force.
- 3) It was agreed that a steering committee will coordinate and provide leadership to the Task Force. The ad hoc members of this group, except for Nils, agreed to act as the temporary steering committee to continue discussions about the relationship and accountability of this UUSJ issue group. Since there are other UUSJ issue groups, there needs to be some parallel processes and procedures and a line of authority to the UUSJ Board. The steering committee shall provide quarterly reports to the UUSJ Board.
- 4) There was general agreement that the focus of advocacy work would be at the national level. (Eric and Larry will reach out to Dean Wanderer, co-chair of the UU Legislative Ministry - Virginia to ask about their engagement in environmental and climate justice issues.) UU Legislative Ministry - Maryland is actively engaged in environmental partnerships. It was agreed that UUSJ would continue to promote and report on the work and events of the state legislative ministries.

It was agreed that the group would meet again before the next Task Force meeting. Lavona will send out a Doodle Poll to find a date and time for the steering committee to meet.

**Advocacy Ad Hoc Group Report - Lavona**

**January 12, 2017 Advocacy Ad Hoc Group Meeting held by Zoom video conference**

Participants: Larry, Joelle Novey - Interfaith Power & Light, Eric, Doris, Bob, Jack, Marti, and Lavona met to discuss and make recommendation for advocacy priorities. Lavona led the

discussion and facilitated the meeting. We shared Lavona's screen to view a Google Spreadsheet that showed around 12 different possible national issues, and a few state issues. We used the 1-3 to denote levels of our engagement 1=strong/pro-active UUSJ support; 2=Join only in partnership; 3=research or track status of an issue and be opportunistic. Lavona explained that there is expected to be a lot of governing by changing rules, appropriations, and use of regulation and changes to the Congressional Review Act. We then ranked the top three issues.

Joelle provided information on what's happening in Maryland and DC. There was little information available about Virginia. Eric and Larry (as noted from the previous organizational meeting) will reach out to Dean Wanderer, co-chair of the UU Legislative Ministry -VA, to ask about their engagement in environmental and climate justice issues. There are no expected short term environmental issues to note in DC.

After discussion, it was agreed that we should recommend to the UUSJ Board that we should focus on three public policy issues at the federal government level. Two of three are focused on international policy since that's more vulnerable at this time: Maintaining active participation in and fulfillment of our commitments as called for in the Paris Agreement (The Clean Power Plan (CPP) is a cornerstone approach to reaching our targets - in courts now. Many states have started implementing its plan.); Support the continued funding of the international Green Climate Fund for the most vulnerable nations in the world (adaptation and mitigation); and support new legislation that is expected to be introduced this year to put a tax on carbon. At the state level, enactment of the CPP was decided to be a high priority to follow for possible action. In Virginia building of two pipelines, fracking and clean energy are considered important to follow. Sierra Club of Virginia (NOVA group too) is a partner with UUSJ with the lead on Virginia engagement on CPP and other issues.

**Standing Rock Experience:** Susan - Standing Rock interfaith Day of Prayer - UUs were honored by our Indigenous family letting Karen, from local UU church, be the first speaker for the prayer service.

**UUA Election for Next UUA President:**

Meet the Candidates for UUA President: April 1, at Cedar Lane UUC.

**UUA Presidential Candidates Questions Ad Hoc Group** and many others across the country prepared questions for the UUA Presidential candidates to answer. A link was provided to the survey but it's closed now. As of the date of the meeting there were 83 co-signing organizations and individuals. The introduction and questions are below:

Global climate disruption is on track to seriously disrupt civilization within 30 years, catalyzing a sixth ecological mass extinction event on planet Earth, and impacting already-marginalized communities first and worst. Rising greenhouse gas emissions jeopardize achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, threatening to exacerbate disasters, poverty and inequality the world over. It is crucial that the Unitarian Universalist Association seriously responds to the threats and injustices of the global climate crisis. As a candidate for presidency of the UUA, we would like to ask:

1. What do you see as the root causes of the climate crisis?
2. What foreseeable impacts of global climate disruption are you most concerned about? Why?

3. How do you relate global climate disruption to the other great moral, spiritual and religious issues of our time?
4. What moral imperatives should guide Unitarian Universalist climate action?
5. How do you respond to global climate disruption in your current life and ministries?
6. As UUA President, what specific actions and policies would you implement to address the climate crisis? How would you increase institutional support from the UUA for its congregations and their members to work towards climate justice, environmental justice, and a sustainable way of life?
7. As UUA President, how would you expand and support the UUA's work with other faiths and non-governmental organizations to take collective actions towards shifting to a low carbon future, advancing the human rights of impacted populations, and growing the climate justice movement?
8. How should the UUA and its congregations offer ministerial support for people struggling with despair, confusion, or denial related to the global climate crisis?
9. How should the UUA and its congregations offer ministerial support for members of front-line impacted communities of the global climate crisis? What steps should the UUA take to be in greater solidarity with the front-line impacted communities of the global climate crisis?

We respectfully request that you let us know your thoughts in response to these questions, by March 1, 2017. Additionally, we request your permission to publish your response via websites and newsletters, to share with our community bases.

#### **Dakota Access Pipeline - UU Presence at Standing Rock**

Susan Rogers & Lee Stewart both participated with the Water Protectors at Standing Rock in North Dakota - To view Susan's interview on WJLA about her time at Standing Rock, go to this link: <http://wjla.com/search?find=pipeline%20Susan%20Rogers>

#### **UNFCCC COP 22 Marrakech, Morocco Update - Doris Marlin**

Recording of COP22 Observers / Climate Action Team (CAT) Discussion:

Here it is: <https://soundcloud.com/aly-tharp/commit2respond-qa-with-the-uu-observers-to-cop22>

Legal Considerations on Withdrawal from Paris Climate Accord

<https://www.c2es.org/publications/legal-note-could-future-president-reverse-us-approval-paris-agreement>

Moments from Morocco

[http://www.commit2respond.org/momentsfrommorocco?utm\\_campaign=cop22\\_12\\_13&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=c2r](http://www.commit2respond.org/momentsfrommorocco?utm_campaign=cop22_12_13&utm_medium=email&utm_source=c2r)

US Mid-Century Strategy FOR DEEP DECARBONIZATION, Nov 2016

[http://unfccc.int/files/focus/long-term\\_strategies/application/pdf/mid\\_century\\_strategy\\_report-final\\_red.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/focus/long-term_strategies/application/pdf/mid_century_strategy_report-final_red.pdf)

Jan Dash Climate Portal Website: <http://climate.uu-uno.org/>

COP 22 Specific -

<http://climate.uu-uno.org/view/article/5804a9680cf2204d222d31dc/#ObserverBlogComments>

#### **Carbon Footprint Game - Eric:**

Files from Eric & Jack & Others will be posted to UUSJ website:

Lots of enthusiasm and ideas - Vegan Potluck, Transportation - family bicycle outing, Church-wide yard sale at beginning of May. He has lots of materials electronically to share - Home energy audits - weatherization - etc. Thermal guns - kids can search out the coldest place in the

church - UUCF can share the materials - guns etc for how to implement this. The game is super engaging - use Rewards, stickers and fun ways to give out rewards - who got the most stickers leading to a star and some sort of prize.

**UUSJ Capitol Hill Advocacy Corps** - Lavona announced that there will be two UUSJ Advocacy Corp Q&A Info Sessions Zoom video conference meetings Sat.1/28 3pm and Tues. 1/31 7pm. Go to [www.uusj.org](http://www.uusj.org) to sign up. The first UUSJ Advocacy Corps lobby day will be February 14 followed by lobby days on the second Tuesday of every month.

**UU UNO Intergenerational Spring Seminar, 2017 *Arm in Arm: Interfaith Action to Disarm Our Planet*, will be April 6-8, 2017 in New York City.**

<http://www.uua.org/international/events/seminar>

**Closing Discussion:**

Doris asked participants to answer the question as our check out question: In 1 year what has the UUSJ Environment and Climate Justice Task Force Accomplished? What are we proud of and advances have we made? Or one word checkout.

Doris Marlin, ASC: UUSJ collectively has reduced our carbon footprint and gotten enough national attention via UU press & outreach, interfaith collaboration. The carbon footprint effort becomes a model to encourage other congregations and regions of UUs nation-wide, and they are following in the same path, contributing in a personal way to the US Nationally Determined Contributions for GHG reduction. UUSJ is a visible participant in the interfaith community ratcheting up progress towards the same goal, UUSJ is flooded with letters for national UU congregations to deliver to on top issues to congress, and nation-wide congregational groups are visiting their congressional reps with UUSJ hosting and trains guidance.

Susan Rogers, ASC: UUs are in a leadership role around environmental among the faith community.

Jack Lebowitz, UU River Road: working hard to keep the US in the Paris Accord; Come up with an ambitious strategy, i.e. visit General Mattis who recognized Climate Change as a threat multiplier and emphasize the need to remain in and increase our ambition supporting the Paris Agreement.

Marty Mackenzie - Towson: In 1 year we have made the difference to keep the US participation in the Paris climate Agreement in tack

Larry Underwood - Bull Run: The US has passed a carbon tax

Al Carlson - Reston: Encouraged!

Eric Goplerud - Fairfax: Blocking withdrawal from Paris Climate Agreement and carbon tax has passed, and accomplished in deliberate communion with evangelicals and other faith communities (not just the liberal faith groups of our normal alliances)

Nils Bjork - Fairfax: he is buying a EV vehicle. He is demonstrating his commitment, not hiding his awareness that he's making the future worse for his grand children - Chevy Bolt.

John Kester - WES: Will be making trips to Annapolis for Clean Energy legislation.

Margery Knight - Annapolis: Get strong MD legislation passed - and more MD UU engagement with state-wide congregations to pass good legislation in MD - We are a visible leader in MD.

Julia Santerre - Rockville UU: To know we've been heard on Capitol Hill, A specific number of senators [and congressional representatives] know who we are and what we care about and that we are all [interfaith] connected, hold 2 - 3 interconnected [collaborative uu/interfaith environment and climate justice] events.

Donneby Smith - UU Silver Spring: All of the above and one thing more - Paris Agreement, Carbon Tax, State level override - inspired more engagement across denomination and more interfaith work.

Lavona Grow - UUC Arlington and UUSJ: Hopes to bring to fruition that UUSJ is seen as credible, UU voice, and model of what collective action looks like; to make a difference on the Hill and show what partnering look like for UUs; how to be engaged across the nation, with the strategy and tactics to deliver this with those across the nation trained in advocacy, and put strong mechanism in place for second Tuesday of the month advocacy visits and engagement with the Hill staff and Members of Congress; finally engagement by some area ministers.

Rachel Perry - UU Davies: Wants more persons working in environment and social justice to know that they can reach out to UUs who continue to connect on social justice work and as identified leaders in raising climate change as a moral issue.

Marsha White - Accotink: That we can stop the Atlantic Coast Pipeline; we are successful in getting Fairfax County to commit to a clear reduction of their carbon footprint in all facilities and actions; and to make our congregation greener and more politically active on environmental issues.

**Next Meeting:** March 18, afternoon at Bull Run UU OR Zoom - to be determined since weather could still be an issue in March. People seemed to like the Zoom online video interface and ability to share screens and view documents. But Doris noted that face-to-face is good and maybe we could alternate.

### **Meeting ended around 12:40pm**

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Unauguration - Emma's Revolution concert & more - Fundraiser for progressive orgs - Sold Out. <http://www.unnaugural.org/>

Inaugural Bawl - UUC Fairfax members have organized a benefit for Southern Poverty Law Center link to flyer. The Inaugural Bawl -

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/409044ca9ae23a3fe3-inaugural>

Inaugural Bawl & Benefit for the Southern Poverty Law Center

So you aren't expecting an invitation to an official Inaugural Ball??

Let's face it, 2016 sucked. 2017 may be worse.

Please join your friends to brace for the next four years at our Inaugural Bawl on January 20 from 8-11 pm for live music, dancing, light snacks and drinks. Share your fears at the Wailing Wall, your hopes and resolves at the "They Go Low, We Go High" wall.

For details and to RSVP, click on the link.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/409044ca9ae23a3fe3-inaugural>

Beyond Extreme Energy - "Resist Trump's

FERC." <https://www.facebook.com/events/241932829568729/>

Washington Ethical Society Events:

[http://www.ethicalsociety.org/calendar.php?action=event\\_details&id=1915&date=2017-01-21](http://www.ethicalsociety.org/calendar.php?action=event_details&id=1915&date=2017-01-21)

**Many Local UU & Multi-faith activities:**

**January 14-20** - Week-long [Fast4Power](http://wesayenough.org/fast4power/), <http://wesayenough.org/fast4power/>, sponsored by the [We Say Enough](#) multifaith/secular campaign. [Sign the pledge to fast here](#), and join daily calls to receive spiritual sustenance.

**January 15-16** - Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday and Monday will focus on resistance, resilience and our vision for a world where all can thrive with sermons, events and actions.

· View the [Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday collection](#) on UUA WorshipWeb, .  
<http://www.uua.org/worship/holidays/mlk-sunday>

**January 16** - Launch of [30 Days of Love 2017—Fortifying the Movement](#), <https://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/ourstories/save-the-date-30-days-of-love>

Get ready for four inspiring weeks of building the movement for justice, focusing on relationships, covenants, transformation and sustenance.

**January 22** - UUSC Congregation and Clergy webinar - Solidarity & Sanctuary: learn options and strategies for organizing, advocacy and offering physical sanctuary to those at risk for deportation. 3:30-4:15 pm ET, [register here](#), <https://uusc.zoom.us/webinar/register/a7a7fdf3e4a6dd21d746f627e8486654>

**January 20** - Faith leaders with the [We Say Enough Campaign](#) are planning a Fast4Power this week with an emphasis on January 20th., <http://wesayenough.org/>

**January 21** - Events at All Souls Church Unitarian in Washington, DC:  
[J21 Teach-In](#) - sponsored by the Reeb Voting Rights Project (Sign up). We Will Rise, <http://j21teachin.org/> [*On the day after inauguration, we are providing a **safe, warm space for folks coming to the Women's March** — and other progressive events taking place inauguration weekend — to gain a deeper understanding of the **critical challenges facing our nation**, find ways to **plug into grassroots campaigns** that tackle those challenges, **connect with people** from a vast array of movements and **acquire skills** to become more effective organizers at home.]*

· [Evening events](#) - Post-Women's March welcome, Solidarity Sing, J21

Closing <http://www.all-souls.org/>

· [Download the January 21 ASCU Info Sheet](#).

**January 21** - [Women's March on Washington](#) in Washington, DC.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1617863051849017/>

· Join the [UU Meet Up at the Women's March on Washington](#); [couch-surfing](#) available through All Souls Church Unitarian.

· [Find a sister march near you](#), currently organized in most states.

**January 22** - Melissa Harris-Perry preaches at [All Souls Church Unitarian](#) in Washington, DC.

**January 22** - UUSC public webinar - Solidarity & Sanctuary: learn options and strategies for organizing, advocacy and offering physical sanctuary to those at risk for deportation. 3:00-4:15 pm ET, [register here](#). Congregational groups encouraged to attend!

**Polar Bear Plunge to Keep Winter Cold** - Chesapeake Climate Action Network 2017- Jan 28th, 2017, National Harbor <https://www.crowdrise.com/CCANPolarPlunge2017>

Report prepared by Doris Marlin and Lavona Grow

## **Escalating Inequality Task Group Report – January 24, 2017**

### **Members**

Adam Wasserman, Bob Denniston

The Escalating Inequality Task Group has met monthly either in person or via online Zoom sessions since it was established in August. The members worked initially to define a set of policy priorities and gather information to use to lobby members of Congress, focusing on three main areas: tax reform, building the social safety net, and long-term structural change. Group members began researching a number of issues and writing position papers, but the election results required the group to shift its focus. While we had planned to push for major positive policy changes, under the new Administration our efforts will need to focus more on opposing policies that exacerbate inequality.

The Inequality Group also worked to analyze the draft Statement of Conscience (SoC) on Escalating Inequality that was issued in November. Through a process of discussion and meetings over several months, the Group drafted a comprehensive set of comments that it has shared with local congregations to help them deliberate about the SoC. Several congregations are using the UUSJ paper as the basis for their response.

The Task Group expects to work with UUSJ's new Advocacy Corps in the months ahead to help build support for policies that will make a difference in reducing inequality.

Submitted by: Adam Wasserman

## **Immigration Task Force Report – January 24, 2017**

### **Members**

Dean Wanderer, Pablo DeJesus, Lavona Grow, David Strauss, Bruce Griffin, Don Chery and John Gubbings

Activities and Accomplishments:

**7th Virginia Immigrant Advocates Summit:** This initiative was held on October 4-5 at the Arlington UU Church. Lavona and Dean participated. The topics included DAPA/DACA, voting registration and poll watching and the Virginia Redistricting initiatives.

**Priorities for the forthcoming year:** Comprehensive Immigration Reform is our top priority but there are many moving parts in its development. Our present efforts include the end of family detention of those mothers and children who have arrived in the US without permission and the requirement that ICE's performance is in compliance with lawful standards.

**Detention Watch:** We expect to visit the Farmville Detention Facility on February 8, 2017 in support of the establishment of a Detention Watch program in Virginia.

**Advocacy:** We conducted visits to Florida Congressman Ted Deutch and Congressman John Delany in Washington in November and December 2016 to discuss our opposition to the minimum bed requirement, i.e., that Congress has mandated since 2009 that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) hold at least 34,000 immigrants in detention each day. We will continue our visit program, however, our topics may be change as events dictate.

We conducted advocacy training at the Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church on December 4, 2016 in support of the then forthcoming Virginia General Assembly. Bills of interest include drivers' licenses for those with DACA status, in state college tuition for those who may lose DACA status and loss of funds for those institutions which offer sanctuary.

Submitted by: Dean Wanderer and David Strauss

## **Program Committee Report – January 24, 2017**

### **Members**

Martha Ades Chair, Lavona Grow, John Gubbings, Marsha White, Elizabeth Stevens

Since September 2016 the Program Committee has provided support for several events:

The first annual **Cider Fest** was held on October 30th at Arlington UU. This celebration of UUSJ members and an opportunity to meet executive Director Pablo DeJesus was attended by more than 50 people. There was good food and live music by the All Souls Blue Grass Band.

On **December 3rd**, we held a discussion session that reviewed the Congregational Study Action Issue (CSAI) process. Specific documents that were addressed were the Statement of Conscience pertaining to the **2014-2018 CSAI**, “Escalating Inequality” and the Study Guide provided by the UUA for the **2016-2020 CSAI**, “The Corruption of Our Democracy”. Twenty-five people representing 12 congregations attended. They were able to learn what had been done on the 2014-2018 CSAI and what plans are for the 2016-2020 CSAI. This program was a repeat of a similar one held in December 2015 and seems to be appreciated by the congregations.

For two days, **December 12-13**, author and fellow UU **Chuck Collins** visited our area and was able to meet with UUs in programs sponsored by UUSJ. He talked with us about a post-election direction that would help us address our issues, generally, and income inequality, specifically. He held a private book signing at UU Arlington and also a public one at Potter’s House in DC. Before the public one he was able to chat with UUSJ members about current issues. The program committee supplied logistical support for the 2 meetings in Arlington.

The program committee continues to provide logistical support for the **April 3-5 2017** conference that UUSJ will co-sponsor with UU’s for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC). This conference, to be held at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in Washington will include education, training and on-the-ground advocacy related to reversing inequality. There will be speakers and trainers from both faith and political backgrounds. UUSJ volunteers will be needed as home hosts, meeting greeters and setup organizers.

Submitted by: Martha Ades