

MUUSJN RACIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

May 2024
Newsletter

"ONCE WE START TO ACT,
HOPE IS EVERYWHERE.
SO INSTEAD OF LOOKING FOR HOPE,
LOOK FOR ACTION.
THEN, AND ONLY THEN, HOPE WILL COME."
-GRETA THUNBURG

Welcome to Edition One!!

I've decided a newsletter is the best way to keep UUs and friends up to date on the things I am working on as a MUUSJN consultant. I hope to compile a list of interested folks, so if you'd like to be added to the list for future newsletters focused around Environmental and Racial Justice, send me an email! I hope that if you're reading this you'll share it with others, so they have the opportunity to read too!

I hope to send a newsletter every 2-3 months, depending on how much I have to share. The stories will be very short updates, sometimes with a link for more info. Please always reach out with questions, or if you have resources to share. If you or your church are working on any of these issues or want to get involved- please get in touch with me, so we can build together, a wider, stronger network!

It was a pleasure to host an event with Dr. Rob Spirko from the Article II Study Commission a few months ago. We had good attendance as he shared more info, and answered many questions. I'm looking forward to GA to see how the vote turns out. This is an interesting time in our world, country and denomination.

You can view the video here: bit.ly/Art2Spirko

Article II resources from the UUA: <https://www.uua.org/re/article2>

I would like to express gratitude for Metro Detroit Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) for co-hosting our Decolonize Your Mind series. This chapter meets monthly on Zoom, all are welcome, especially "white" people who want to engage with other "white" people who realize we have our own internal work to do, as well as engaging other "white" people in anti-racist work, without taxing Black people to do the work for us. **Learn more and sign up for their newsletter and get meeting info here:** <https://linktr.ee/surjmetrodetroit>

I am excited about much of the work I am engaged in with MUUSJN and many of our congregations. Thank you for your ideas and interest. There is so much we can do, when we work together, especially while building power with the communities where our congregations are housed.

The work I do is built on relationships, I want to share relationships with you. Please be ready to stretch with some of the info you learn. Remember you are learning from those on the frontlines, although transactions occur in these relationships, this is not transactional work, this is relational work, based on trust and accountability.

I will leave you with these beautiful words by Mia Mingus:

<https://bit.ly/dreamingaccountability>

Jenny Teed



In this newsletter you can expect:

Red Dress Day
May 5

Black Mamas
Bailout

Water & Solar
Legislation

Line 5

Videos Of Past
Events

Upcoming
Events

MI Black Mamas Bail Out



MI Black Mama Bail Out began this week and will run through the middle of June. MUUSJN has been working with Michigan Liberation for 5 years now to End Cash Bail and to bring Black Mamas home for Mothers Day!

The number of UU congregations, as well as the level of involvement keeps growing! This makes me so proud to be a UU, MI Liberation definitely sees our denomination as strong supporters of their work, and an important part of the team!!

We currently have 4 congregations engaged with the Core Team! Many congregations have had special services or presentations, some have had successful fundraisers and plate collections, and BUC did a web event with a lawyer from Detroit Justice Center! about the impacts of Cash Bail. Thank you for showing up, if you want to get more involved, let me know.

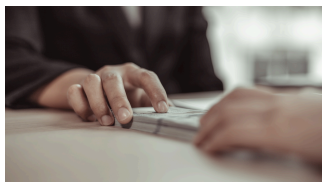
Donations

Set up your own fundraiser at church or in your workplace or community.

Of course personal donations are also welcome here:

<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/mbmbo-2024>

If you would like to assist the Core Team in fundraising or going to bail people out, volunteers are appreciated, just let me know!



Be Bold Against Bail



Each night, 8,000 people in Michigan spend the night locked behind bars awaiting trial, because they cannot afford bail. And yet those with money are able to go home, and continue to work and care for their family until their trial date.

Cash bail is the single biggest driver of incarceration in America. Despite affecting over 400,000 legally innocent people, many are unaware of the function of this multi-billion-dollar industry.

More help is needed to end cash bail, if this is an issue that speaks to your heart and you would like to get more involved. Please let me know and I can share other volunteer, meeting and training opportunities with you. Take the pledge that you support ending Cash Bail at the link below and receive updates on the process of our work. <https://bit.ly/BoldAgainstBail>

I am proud to share that Social Justice Chair of 1st UU Detroit, Susan Matthews, just worked with the Core Team and with much involvement created the new logo for BAB!! I will share the logo in my next newsletter!

Speakers Available

Please contact me or Mary Barber- Mary@miliberation.org to arrange a speaker for your Service, Social Justice meeting or Event.

There is a great program that can be adapted to fit your needs.

Cash Bail Webinar

Thank You to Izzy and Mary Jo from Birmingham Unitarian Church for organizing this webinar in January with Michigan Liberation and Rubina from Detroit Justice Center. If you missed it, want to watch it again or share it.

Here is the link to the video: <https://youtu.be/rliWXIOinnc?si=ZWXzurx6FCOcbMzI>

NATIVE AMERICAN JUSTICE

Last Spring, we heard from some of our members that you would be interested in learning more about the land you are on, and the Native American communities and tribes' history and current issues related to justice. Since then I have been learning more myself and building and strengthening relationships. We had a great event at Beacon UU with Native Justice Coalition to pack holiday care packages for Native elders and those in need.

Bronson Herman has invited UUs to join Vibe With Tribes- June 1 in Detroit! **More Info:** <https://vibeswiththetribes.com/>

Linda Cypret-Kilbourne, co-founder of Michigan Coalition Against Racism in Sports and Media (MCARSM), asks us to **Take Action to End Racist Mascots and Logos!** www.ujustice.org/take-action-to-end-racist-mascots-and-logos/



Decolonize Your Mind Part 2 **Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women**

UPCOMING EVENT:

SUNDAY, MAY 26 6:30-8:00

Register Here: <https://bit.ly/decolyourmind2>

THE EXPLOITATION, RAPE AND MURDER OF INDIGENOUS WOMEN, GIRLS AND 2 SPIRIT.

GOES BACK TO THE DAYS OF COLONIZATION OF THE SO CALLED UNITED STATES. SPEAKERS WILL SHARE SOME EARLY TRUTHS INCLUDING THE LIFE OF SACAGAWEA AND CONTINUING TO PRESENT DAY, WITH SPORTS EVENTS, INDUSTRY AND MAN CAMPS.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

**SHIRLEY JOHNS AND
JAIKE SPOTTED WOLF**

RED DRESS DAY



I'd like to raise up Marie and the UU Church of Farmington for recognizing Red Dress Day this year. Marie hung red dresses in the Social Hall and Rev Karen shared a prayer during service.

Red Dress Day is recognized each May 5, in the U.S. and Canada, to honor the lives of missing and murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2 Spirits.

Métis artist Jaime Black helped inspire the red dress movement, which began in Canada.

Red dresses are hung often outside or in public places, to represent the pain and loss felt by loved ones and survivors.

If your congregation also recognized this, please let me know- if not, maybe we could start planning for next year, or possibly even have a Red Dress Day before then.



WATCH THIS!

**PAST MUUSJN WEB EVENT:
DECOLONIZE YOUR MIND**

bit.ly/decolyourmindvideo

Jaike Spotted Wolf & Bronson Herman



Truth & Reconciliation

Honoring, Healing and Remembering

Thursday, June 6, 2024 The Saginaw Chippewa Tribe will recognize the suffering, strength and resilience of the children who lived at the Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School. This year is the 90th anniversary of the closing of the boarding school. I attended a few years ago, I encourage you to attend, it is a day of learning, culture, community and healing.

More info here: <https://bit.ly/SagChipp6624>

#LANDBACK

We'll be talking more about the Land Back Movement in the future. I'm learning so much, about Land Acknowledgements, Land Back, Land Tax. In fact, check out this podcast: LANDBACK For The People

I was excited to see this in the news, not perfect, but maybe a good start?

Oakland University becomes 1st U.S. campus to return land use to Native American community
Read the story: <https://bit.ly/OUlandback>

Environmental Justice

COMMUNITY SOLAR

CITIZENS CLIMATE LOBBY ACTION FOR COMMUNITY SOLAR Bi-partisan Community Solar Legislation is currently in the Michigan State Senate and the House, but needs some help from Michigan citizens to be passed. You can help!

Click for more info:
<https://bit.ly/MiSolarLeg>

WATER RIGHTS

MUUSJN has been advocating for clean and affordable water for many years with the Detroit Peoples Water Board. Once again MI legislation has been introduced ...

Click here to learn more and take action:

<https://peopleswaterboard.org/2023-water-is-life-legislation/>

Flint residents just recognized 10 Years since the Flint Water Crisis.

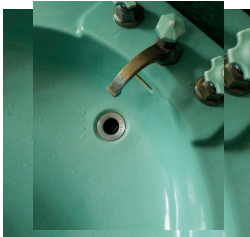
Residents remind us that many are still living without clean water in their homes and many more are still suffering and have not recieved justice!

ENBRIDGE OIL- LINE 5

Do you remember that the Governor shut down Line 5 and they continue to operate?

Well there are still many efforts to shut them down completely.

There is pressure on President Biden, the courts and now we are organizing cross states and international borders! LMK if you're in this movement or want to get involved.



Videos to watch!

WORLD WATER WEEK

WATER LEGISLATION & LINE 5

NICOLE HILL & ANDREA PIERCE 3/2024 VIDEO

Watch here: bit.ly/WWW324

WATER IS LIFE | INDIGENOUS LIFEWAYS

THREATENED BY ENBRIDGE'S LINE 5 VIDEO

Watch Here: bit.ly/Macklifeways



SHUT DOWN LINE 5!!

To ensure we are able to continue our justice and solidarity work, Please donate and become a member MICHIGAN UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIAL JUSTICE NETWORK www.uujustice.org

Please Contact me if you'd like to ensure you get the next copy of this new newsletter!

JENNY TEED, CONSULTANT
Jennifer.a.teed@gmail.com

Thank you for reading, sharing & taking action!