



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville

Social Justice Committee

February, 2021

Putting our religious principles into practice in the community.

We have many activities coming up during February. Here are some!

Social Justice Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 9, 7:30 PM to 9 PM via Zoom

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity 2021

As many of you know, COVID 19 forced us to cancel our annual trip to Garrett County, MD last summer to participate in their Habitat for Humanity (HFH) workcamp. Garrett County HFH will be going forward with their summer program this year and we have tentatively booked our week – August 2-6, 2021. However, our participation this year, as last, will depend on the status of COVID 19 and the safety of our congregants.

For those not familiar with our work with HFH, since 2008 UUCR has travelled to Garrett County MD to spend a week building houses. We welcome congregants aged 16 and over to join us - for all or part of the week. We work on houses in Hopeland Village, a community of homes built entirely by volunteers and designed to provide safe and affordable housing in western MD.

No building experience is necessary. Our past projects have included exterior siding installation; interior painting and caulking; hanging kitchen cabinets; laying flooring; and installing ceiling fans, light fixtures and baseboard heating. We get to know each other better as we work side-by-side and get

to know members of the local community who generously provide us dinner each night.

Please contact Karen Pittleman (Karen@pittleman.net) for further information or to tentatively sign up.



2019 UUCR Habitat Team

Hunger Task Group

Food Collection

UUCR, in coordination with our shared space congregation, Capital Rivers Church (MC Church of Christ) will be conducting a Food Drive for Manna Food Center, the second Saturday of every month, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. Please be aware that this is a drive-by event. No need to even get out of your car! Staff from both congregations will be outside of UUCR to help unload your nonperishable food items and get them to Manna. Our next collection is scheduled for Saturday, February 13th. Can't make the second Saturday?



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Please remember that there is ALWAYS the Manna bucket located outside of Founder's Hall for ongoing donations. Need ideas for your next shopping trip? Check here: <https://www.mannafood.org/give-food/most-needed-foods-list/> Contact Dolores Barnes for more information at dambarnes@verizon.net. Thank you

1st Fridays - Music

1st Fridays at UUCR welcomes singer/songwriters Crys Matthews & Heather Mae live-streaming on Feb. 5, 2021 from 7:30pm-8:30pm.

Ask about the new generation of social justice music-makers and Crys Matthews will be mentioned. A prolific lyricist, Matthews blends Americana, folk, jazz, blues, bluegrass and funk into a bold, complex performance steeped in traditional melodies punctuated by honest, original lyrics. Her two 2017 releases, a full-length album called *The Imagineers*, a selection of thoughtful songs about love and life, and an EP called *Battle Hymn for an Army of Lovers*, which tackles social justice themes, helped earn Matthews the title of 2017 NewSong Music and Performance Competition grand prize winner. Matthews also won the People's Music Network's Social Justice Songs contest at the 2017 Northeast Regional Folk Alliance.

Heather Mae is a self-proclaimed queer, fat, femme living out loud with mental illness and very proud of all of the above. As a social justice singer-songwriter, recording artist, and producer, she uses her music and her

writing to speak out and build community.

1st Fridays at UUCR is an outreach program of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville and features an array of multicultural musical talent from around the D.C. metropolitan area as well as guest artists from out of state. We are delighted to bring world-class music to the Rockville community and beyond and support the musicians whose livelihoods have been decimated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Minimum suggested donation of \$15/person or \$25/household. Thank you for your generous support of the artists who have kept us going throughout this pandemic.

Learn more and donate

here: <https://uucrmusic.weebly.com/concerts.html>

Sarah Jebian

Share-the-Plate

If you would like to nominate an organization for share-the-plate, please send an email to Sean McCarthy. It should be a 501c organization and an organization you are involved in. If accepted, please be sure your organization sends a brief description to Adrian and arranges a speaker.

Environment Action

First Sharing Series Event - February 25th, 7:30pm - Jon Landenburger

Join us to learn what UUCR Environmental Action Group is doing to recycle tricky items.



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TerraCycle® is a social enterprise Eliminating the Idea of Waste®. They have found that nearly everything we touch can be recycled and collect typically non-recyclable items through national, first-of-their-kind recycling platforms. They have free programs available that UUCR EAG could integrate into our outreach plans.



UUCR Racial Justice

If you would like to receive periodic notices on Racial Justice programs and efforts, please email racialjustice@uucr.org.

For a list of resources such as books, movies and other information, see <https://bit.ly/UUCR-RJ-Resources>

For detailed information about the activities below, please go to:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1prL9EY1Ou0E0Y27QNJDNA3FeqXT5NQzj3PGpDT6U398/edit#heading=h.nzzzjrkbpakg>

Coming to the Table (CTTT)

via Zoom Wednesday February 3, 7:00 – 9:00 PM. Nancy Spencer and Fran Lowe will facilitate. We utilize a Circle

Process and Touchstones to create space in which participants feel safe enough to explore and discuss racism in America and how it affects your life.

Feb.3 @ 7PM ET / 4 PT Reading, Writing, and Racism with Dr. Camika Royal and Dr. Bree Picower

Join for a conversation with Dr Camika Royal, Assistant Professor of Urban Education at Loyola University of Maryland School of Education and Dr. Bree Picower, Associate Professor at Montclair State University in the College of Education and Human Development.

Feb. 4 @ 7 PM ET/4PM PT Addressing Race, Racism, and Bias

In this writing workshop, Willona Sloan, Strategic Storyteller & Literary Host, will lead participants to tackle issues of racism, bias, and social justice through guided writing prompts, and look at ways to engage in behaviors and attitudes that demonstrate respect for one another's identities and better cultural understanding. The workshop will include writing, reading, and discussion, and will offer a safe and inclusive environment for learning.

NOTE: This is an interactive Zoom workshop with a participation limit of 40 people. We will open the Zoom at two minutes before start. Once we hit capacity, you can participate via the livestream on Facebook but will not experience the interactive element with the instructor.

Register for Zoom/watch on Facebook

Feb. 9 @ 7PM ET/4 PM PT Gather at the Table

In this webinar, Morgan and DeWolf talk about the circumstances behind their book Gather At the Table (Beacon Press). Sharon Leslie Morgan, a descendent of slaves on both sides of her



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family, began a journey toward racial reconciliation with Thomas Norman DeWolf, a white man from rural Oregon who descends from the largest slave-trading dynasty in US history. Over a three-year period, the pair traveled thousands of miles, both overseas and through twenty-seven states, visiting ancestral towns, courthouses, cemeteries, plantations, antebellum mansions, and historic sites. They spent time with one another's families and friends and engaged in deep conversations about how the lingering trauma of slavery shaped their lives.

Gather at the Table is the chronicle of DeWolf and Morgan's journey. As DeWolf and Morgan demonstrate, before we can overcome racism we must first acknowledge and understand the damage inherited from the past-which invariably involves confronting painful truths. The result is a revelatory testament to the possibilities that open up when people commit to truth, justice, and reconciliation.

Register for Zoom/watch on Facebook

Feb. 11 @ 7PM ET / 4PM PT Envisioning Restoration and Repair: Art for Our Time

With the world being what it is, it can be hard to imagine what it might take to even begin a process of restoration and repair, on any front. However, the practice of artistic creation can be and has been a way for people to do just that. Join us for a time of looking at and talking about works of art that respond to or have been shaped by crisis. No art historical background is necessary. The focus of our conversations will be about the art itself and what it might have to teach us about restoring and repairing our hearts, our country, and our planet. Offered by Rev. Tony Coleman.

Racial Justice Jubilee March 19 - 21

Mark the dates.

The information is now available on our website calendar. You can find it at

<https://www.uua.org/central-east/calendar/jubilee-3-0321>