

Welcome to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee E-mail Bulletin.

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee: advancing human rights and social justice in the United States and throughout the world.

(If you are receiving this bulletin for the first time, please visit:

<http://www.uusc.org/info/emailthanks.html>

for an introductory letter.)

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New year brings challenges, opportunities for human rights activists: A message from our president

"As we welcome the new year, we are energized by both the challenges and the opportunities that lie ahead. Our nation is still dealing with the fallout from the war with Iraq. We know that the enormous costs of this war - both human and financial - have diverted precious resources away from pressing social needs at home and around the world. . . . The past year strengthened our resolve to work for justice at home and around the world. With the continued support of our members and other activists, we are committed to helping to make a difference in the lives of the powerless and oppressed. . . . We invite you to join us in this exciting journey."

For the full New Year's message from UUSC President Charlie Clements, visit <http://www.uusc.org/info/article122203.html>

Action alert: Urge President Bush to support justice for victims of human rights abuses in Burma

Our colleague agency EarthRights International is conducting a petition drive to urge President Bush to drop the administration's opposition to the use of the Alien Tort Claims Act to hold corporations accountable for human rights abuses in foreign countries. The petition will be sent to President Bush in early January. You can also send an immediate personal message to the president through our online Legislative Action Center. USC urges you to take action now and encourage your friends to do so.

For more information and to take action, visit <http://www.uusc.org/news/alert121703.html>

Shareholders focus on getting "Big Pharma's" drugs to world's poor

UUSC has joined with a group of other investors affiliated with the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility to press America's pharmaceutical companies to increase access to anti-retroviral AIDS drugs in the developing world. As a human rights organization, UUSC has watched inaction by "Big Pharma" rob people of their health and dignity and decimate communities. As a participant in shareholder advocacy, UUSC is also making business aware that the costs of inaction are enormous in terms of a company's brand strength, public relations and future profits.

Visit <http://www.uusc.org/info/article122303r3.html>

Elections 2004 initiative set to begin

In January the Service Committee will roll out its new initiative Defending Democracy 2004, a program intended to encourage debate on the most important issues in people's lives and to mobilize maximum voter participation in this year's elections. Designed to complement the efforts of the Unitarian Universalist Association, Defending Democracy 2004 is comprised of three elements.

To learn about UUSC's Elections 2004 initiative, visit <http://www.uusc.org/info/article122303r4.html>

Second What's Your Profile? workshop takes place in Oregon

This fall, the second What's Your Profile? workshop took place in Portland, Ore. The What's Your Profile? project works with local congregations and facilitators to identify community-based youth groups to link with Unitarian Universalist youth. For this workshop, teens from the First Unitarian Universalist Church and the Asian Family Center in Portland joined together to discuss such issues as the concept of race and its origins.

For more about the second What's Your Profile? workshop, visit <http://www.uusc.org/info/article122303.html>

UUSC joins in march and rally to support workers' rights

An estimated 5,000 union members, including several UUSC staff members, rallied in downtown Boston on Dec. 10 to encourage public support of the rights of workers to form and join unions. The rally, which included a march from the Massachusetts State House to the regional office of the National Labor Relations Board, was planned to coincide with the 55th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations on Dec. 10, 1948. UUSC President Charlie Clements, who was invited to sit on the board to hear the testimonies and to help prepare a statement supporting the struggle of workers to form unions, spoke of his experience with Mexican workers.

For more about the rally, visit <http://www.uusc.org/info/article121203.html>

Service Committee News now available online

The Fall 2003 issue of the Service Committee News is now available online. Visit <http://www.uusc.org/pdf/83874A.pdf>

UUSC offices closed Dec. 24-Jan. 2, reopening Jan. 5

UUSC offices will be closed for the holidays beginning with the close of business on Dec. 24 and will reopen on Monday, Jan. 5. However, if you wish to make a gift before the New Year, an Institutional Advancement Department staff member will be available at 617 868-6600, ext. 309, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Monday, Dec. 29 through Wednesday, Dec. 31, or send an e-mail to rsnow@uusc.org. Happy Holidays!

More about the UUSC E-mail Bulletin

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