



Rights NOW

The newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

One Year After Katrina

Government recovery efforts in New Orleans ignore low-income communities

By Martha Thompson

When is the absence of a plan a de facto plan? As 2006 wore on and thousands of Hurricane Katrina survivors sat in cramped trailers and FEMA-paid hotel rooms, it dawned on many that there was no official plan for rebuilding New Orleans. Congress has allocated billions of dollars for long-term housing recovery, but as of August 29, 2006, 12 months after the storm, not a single house had been rebuilt with public funds.

While survivors were waiting, a starkly uneven recovery has resulted in brightly lit cafes bustling in Uptown and the French Quarter while wide swaths look like they did right after the storm with block after block of mold-filled homes on streets lined with abandoned cars and shuttered businesses.

Without question, the city needed to plow resources into the financial district and the French Quarter to generate vital tourist dollars. The city had to let go most municipal employees because there was no tax revenue. But the decisions about where to allocate resources for rebuilding, and the priorities for reconnecting water



Courtesy of Robin Hoecker

Rev. Tyrone Edwards stands with his mother outside the trailer that serves as her temporary shelter a year following Hurricane Katrina. Read about Rev. Edwards' work to rebuild his church on page 3.

and electricity services in the months after Katrina made it clear that there was no transparency on rebuilding.

Greater inequalities among neighborhoods have emerged because there is no transparent planning process for rebuilding the city of New Orleans. Affluent neighborhoods have been better able to access resources for recovery than low-income neighborhoods, where voices have not been heard in envisioning how the city is rebuilt.

The lesson here is that unless there is a clear focus on supporting low-income and vulnerable groups in disaster recovery, they get pushed farther down the ladder because they do not have the resources or the power to overcome the new obstacles.

Still no clear plan

In the largely African-American Seventh Ward, eight months after the storm, rents had doubled, public transit is not working, and

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UUSC employees are represented by Human Rights Workers Local 2661, UNITE HERE!

We Welcome Letters

Rights Now is grateful to readers for their interest and support. We invite you to share your questions and comments by submitting a letter to the editor:

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The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee advances human rights and social justice around the world, partnering with those who confront unjust power structures and mobilizing to challenge oppressive policies.

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A Band of Sisters

Despite all of the tragedy, despite all of the incompetence, despite all of the corruption . . . despite it all, there is hope in the aftermath of Katrina and Rita. It is found in unions, churches, and not-for-profits organizing thousands of volunteers to help strangers clean up debris. It is found in the Vietnamese, Black, and Hispanic neighbors helping each other rebuild their homes. And it is found in the grit of people who decided they would not or could not wait for any of the billions of dollars promised by the federal government and got on with their lives.

In addition to hope, determination and courage are found in the stories of people like Bernice Mosely, who is 82 years young and lives in what is locally known as a 'shotgun double.' It's easy to track her movements in her home because the sheet rock has been stripped and the bottom three feet of the studs are bare.

Her kitchen is much simpler than it used to be — no stove, no fridge, only a styrofoam chest for a pantry. She jokes that with the lower half of her home open and two electric fans, it is the first time she's had 'air conditioning.' All of her working life she sewed at minimum hourly wages and thus must make ends meet on social security.

Ms. Mosely doesn't feel sorry for herself, in fact, she feels fortunate. She was evacuated from her church by helicopter and spent some days in a hospital. Her 89-year-old neighbor refused to leave because he didn't want to abandon his companion of many years — his dog — and they both drowned.

"Lots of people have it worse," she says. "You should see those people in the Lower Ninth and in St. Bernard and in the East. I am one of the lucky ones."

And she's right. There are thousands who are living in homes that ordinarily would be considered uninhabitable. There are more thousands who have yet to return to strip the smelly, moldy walls or shovel out the sludge and mud.

Ms. Mosely is proof that adversity that doesn't break you can leave resilience in its wake.

Ms. Mosely and the women of New Orleans, her 'band of sisters,' who bear too much of this horrendous burden, remind me of Henry V's speech before the battle of Agincourt, when he told his followers that if they survived the day, they would be forever remembered.

But Ms. Mosely is the exception. Single mom heads of households, the elderly, the disabled, people of color, renters, and the working poor — have been disproportionately affected, both from the consequences of Katrina/Rita and of the relief efforts. This is why our work in the Gulf, which you'll read more about in this issue, is grounded in an analysis of gender, class, and race.

"Race, poverty, age, and physical ability are great indicators of who has and who has not made it home," says New Orleans human rights lawyer Bill Quigley. If you would like to remember Ms. Mosely and her brave band of sisters with either deeds (be a volunteer), gifts (make a donation), or words (join our human rights defenders list), UUSC is standing by to assist you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charlie Clements".

Charlie Clements
President and CEO



Rev. Tyrone Edwards (rear center) with members of the Zion Travelers Baptist Church. (Photo courtesy of Robin Hoecker)

Working by faith

As the government response fails, Katrina survivors rebuild their communities

By Judy Rakowsky

Rev. Tyrone Edwards, Louisiana

When Tyrone Edwards was 13 years old, Hurricane Betsy roared into Phoenix, La., and destroyed every place he knew. Forty years later, Edwards' 13-year-old son saw Hurricane Katrina make landfall near their home in Plaquemines Parish, where it leveled 60 miles of civilization before it crashed the levees and swamped New Orleans.

If the Louisiana landmass is a boot, Plaquemines Parish is its big toe. With Katrina, Edwards said, "The Big Toe slipped off the boot."

FEMA did not visit the area until January 2006. Edwards, a Baptist minister, said his community knew better than to wait for aid. They mobilized, avoiding being bulldozed like all of the other communities south of them.

"Without any government funds, we started rebuilding our community," said Edwards, who saw flood waters reach the ceiling of his church. His church has since been gutted and rebuilt, and has reopened.

Support from the UUA-UUSC Gulf Coast Relief Fund helped Edwards and the Zion Travelers Cooperative set up a community tool and equipment loan center. Sharing tools has helped people rebuild houses and businesses more quickly. Already 50 percent of the community is back in their homes, with 80 percent expected eventually to return.

There's still plenty of work to do, Edwards said. "But we work by faith not sight."

Sharon Hanshaw, Mississippi

There was outrage in Mississippi when Gov. Haley Barbour waived Congress's requirement that 50 percent of the \$5.1 billion in federal block grants for Katrina survivors go to low and moderate income households. Action was the answer at Coastal Women for Change, a UUA-UUSC program partner, which promptly drew up a petition against the measure, collecting 951 signatures in just two days.

"It was an easy case," said Executive Director Sharon Hanshaw. "The

governor took the allotment over and put it for upper class people," she said. "It's money for the community, and they left the community out."

Coastal Women for Change did not manage to get the policy reversed, but they did make a public display of presenting the petitions to Leland Speed, a friend of the governor's who chairs the Mississippi Development Authority. A few days later, Coastal Women showed up at another of Speed's events. "Everywhere he was, we were there," she said.

Persistence paid off. Coastal Women for Change has garnered a significant role in two mayoral forums and is placing five representatives from its group as well as five each from the Latino and Vietnamese communities on key decision-making panels for reconstruction.

"We took action and we got action," Hanshaw said. The lesson, she said, is: "If you go single handedly by yourself you're one person begging. If you go with a crowd, that's when something will change." ❏

Rights in humanitarian crises

Bridging the divide

UUA-UUSC partners confront injustice in Gulf Coast

By Sofia T. Romero

In the months after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, a massive outpouring of support from our members and supporters helped raise an unprecedented \$3.5 million for the UUA-UUSC Gulf Coast Relief Fund.

As a reflection of the joint partnership between the UUA and UUSC, the Gulf Coast Relief Fund has responded to the disaster by providing support both to UU congregations and to the wider community.

With support from the fund, program partners in the region are fighting for the rights of people marginalized by mainstream relief aid seeking to return to their homes and jobs. The partners' work is part of a movement to transform the Gulf Coast into a just and equitable region.

In responding to the disaster, we prioritized local organizations that represent, are led by, and reflect the needs of people of color and low-income communities. 🇺🇸

The UUA-UUSC Gulf Coast Relief Fund supports organizations that are:

- Working to help residents return.
- Offering practical aid.
- Seeking active participation in reconstruction.
- Promoting justice for workers.
- Representing people of color and low-income communities.

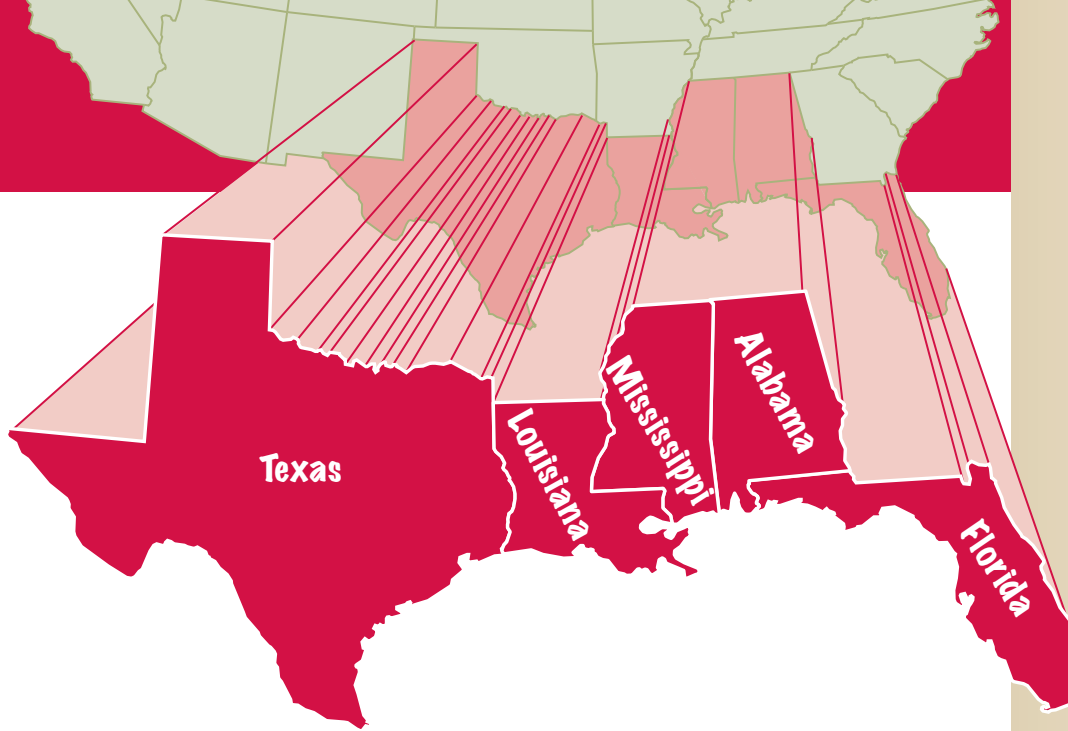


Vicki Centra (left), an organizer for the Mississippi Immigrant Rights Alliance and Kim McDonald, UUSC senior associate for education and action.

Four Central American workers speak swiftly in Spanish to Vicki Centra while she writes up their case. Their contractor paid them one third of what he had promised after three weeks of work, pocketed the other two thirds and left town.

Vicki is an organizer for UUSC's program partner the Mississippi Immigrant Rights Alliance. While wage theft has been rampant in the Gulf Coast, Vicki knows how to get the back wages her clients are owed. One of her strategies: to lead workers in picketing sites of exploitative contractors. Since the hurricane, she has helped workers reclaim \$1.2 million in back wages.

Nguyen Weeds/UUSC



Congregations provide shelter from the storm

By Judy Rakowsky

Twelve days after the Rev. Marta Valentin arrived in New Orleans to become pastor of the First Unitarian Universalist Church, she was running for her life from Hurricane Katrina. Afterwards, Valentin reached out by e-mail to a congregation she'd just met. On September 11, 2005, she conducted the first service by conference call and participants from 14 states dialed in.

"It was really emotional," said Valentin. "People didn't want to get off the phone."

Since then, three quarters of the historic congregation near Tulane University have been able to move back, but the ravages of the flood remain.

Aid poured in not only from the UUA-UUSC Gulf Coast Relief Fund, but 14 churches have set up ongoing partnerships.

"A whole lot of people want to help us and some want to help us for an extended period of time," she said.

First UU has worshiped for months with congregants from Community Church Unitarian Universalist of New Orleans, hosted by a local Presbyterian church.

Community Church, just four blocks from where the 17th Street Levee broke, has little chance of reclaiming its building, said the Rev. James VanderWeele.

"We're surviving and carrying on because we have received support of so many in the UU community," he said. Loss is mitigated by charity, he said, such as a new library of books from ministers and congregants around the country. "That alone turned my attitude 180 degrees," he said.

Robust interfaith relationships are being forged in the wake of the storm and VanderWeele sees promise for improvement in the shared concerns of many about inadequate treatment of the elderly.

"We will continue to be needing help in the New Orleans area for some time," he said. ☹

What You Can Do

Participate in the Katrina rebuilding effort by taking part in a UUSC JustWorks camp in New Orleans, La., or Biloxi, Miss. Visit www.uusc.org/justworks or call 800-388-3920.

Test your knowledge of Gulf Coast rebuilding efforts. Take the *Hurricane Katrina Anniversary Quiz* at www.uusc.org/katrina.

Make a donation to the UUA-UUSC Gulf Coast Relief Fund or learn more about how the Gulf Coast Relief Fund is responding to the crisis by visiting www.uusc.org/katrina.

Rights in humanitarian crises

Confronting genocide, then and now

Founders' legacy inspires UUSC's work to end crisis in Darfur today

By Dick Campbell

Martha and Waitstill Sharp, whose courageous work in rescuing World War II refugees helped found the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, were officially honored for their heroism at ceremonies in Jerusalem and Washington, D.C.

The Sharps were posthumously memorialized in the Garden of the Righteous in June as their names were engraved in the Wall of Remembrance at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem. In September, they were similarly honored with a plaque on the Rescuers' Wall at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in our nation's capital.

"That the Sharps were willing to leave the safety of the United States to save strangers in Europe speaks to their character, and serves as an inspiration to us today, particularly as we continue to witness atrocities in Darfur and

elsewhere," said Sara J. Bloomfield, director of the U.S. museum.

More than 21,000 people have been recognized as Righteous Among the Nations, an honor bestowed on non-Jews who risked their lives during the Holocaust to save Jews. The Sharps are only the second and third U.S. citizens to be so recognized, and Martha is the first woman from the United States.

"They left the peaceful environment and the serenity of the United States to go to a continent torn by war and strife to get people out, Jews as well as non-Jews," said Mordecai Paldiel, director of Yad Vashem's Department of the Righteous.

The Rev. Waitstill Sharp and his wife, Martha, a professional social worker, agreed to go to Europe at a time of U.S. isolationism, leaving their Wellesley, Mass., congregation and two young children to rescue Jews, intellectuals, and other anti-Nazi dissidents.

The Sharps' daughter, Martha Sharp Joukowsky, who was two years old when her parents left her and her seven-year-old brother Hastings with church and community caretakers, accepted a medal on behalf of her parents at the ceremony in June.

Joukowsky pointed out that her parents were not alone in their rescue work. "This medal not only reflects their determination and courage . . . it is about the efforts of a much wider circle of people who made their work possible — the people who sent donations to the Unitarian Service Committee, the secretaries who maintained detailed case files abroad and at headquarters, the families who signed affidavits of sponsorship for refugees . . . and many unseen others."

Modern forms of genocide

The ceremony in Jerusalem also served
(continued on next page)



UUSC founders Martha (left) and Waitstill Sharp were recently honored for their heroic work during World War II. (Photos courtesy of Harvard Archives)



Shelley Meszowicz/UUSC

Martha Sharp Joukowsky (left), daughter of the Sharps, and Rosemarie Feigl, a Holocaust survivor assisted by the Sharps, were part of a UUSC delegation that attended a ceremony in Israel where the Sharps were named "Righteous Among the Nations."



This medal commemorating the ceremony was given to the family.

as a call to action to challenge present day genocide. The Sharps' grandson, Artemis Joukowsky III, said he hopes his parents' legacy inspires others to confront humanitarian crises such as the dire situation in Darfur, where armed conflict since 2003 has resulted in more than 200,000 deaths and 3 million civilians being forced to flee their homes. "I really want to connect this story to the larger issues that are going on in the world today," he said.


UUSC President Charlie Clements said he hopes that the Sharps' story will inspire "today's righteous" to remain committed to ending genocide. "Not every one of us can set out for war-torn Europe. All of us can't visit refugee camps in Darfur or U.S. detention camps in Iraq or Afghanistan. But we can all be a part of the lives of those who do. Every one of us can participate in institutions that make such heroism possible," Clements said.

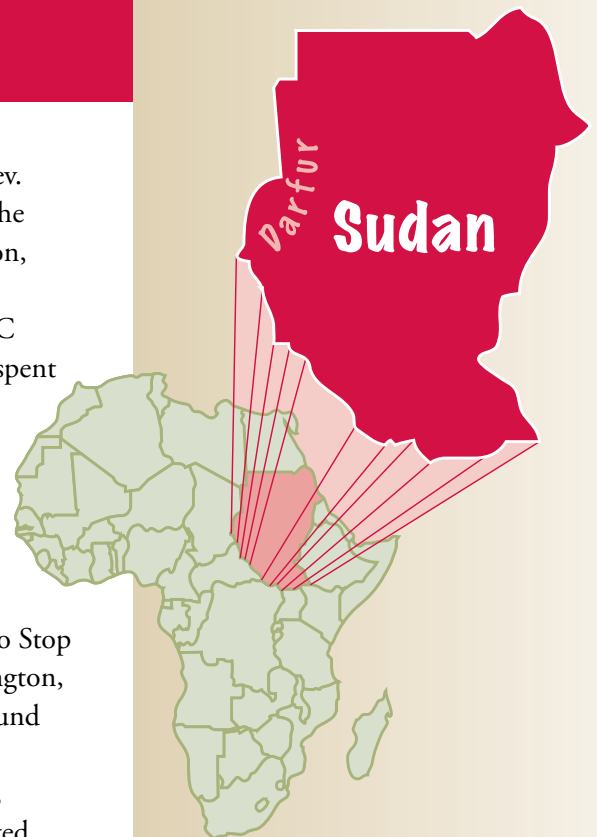
Save Darfur Coalition

For more than two years, UUSC has worked to help end the genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan. Last

November, Clements and the Rev. William Sinkford, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association, visited Darfuran refugee camps in neighboring Chad, and UUSC Programs Director Atema Eclai spent four days in Darfur in May.

UUSC is part of the Save Darfur Coalition, a group of more than 170 human rights organizations nationwide. The Save Darfur campaign attracted national attention with a Rally to Stop Genocide on April 30 in Washington, D.C., and many other cities around the country.

Building on that momentum, the coalition is pressing the United Nations to deploy a large international force in Darfur. UUSC is expanding its Save Darfur initiative through outreach to UU congregations, especially to youth and young adults. UUSC will also participate in a growing Sudan Divestment Campaign, targeting a small number of corporations that have strategic relationships with the Sudan regime. 



What You Can Do

Visit our website,
www.uusc.org:

- For frequent updates and alerts on actions you can take to help end the genocide in Darfur and bring peace to the region.
- To educate and organize others in your congregation and community. An informed citizenry will not stand idly by as the genocide continues.
- To keep the pressure on our elected officials. The U.S. government must take the lead in demanding an increased international role in stopping the genocide.



Courtesy of Danielle Sinkford

Who will act as Righteous Among the Nations for the people of Darfur today?

Passing the torch of activism

Third annual Civil Rights Journey reaches across the generations

By Sofia T. Romero

Thirty-three participants ranging in age from 14 to 79 joined UUSC in July for the third annual Freedom Summer: A Civil Rights Journey. This intergenerational group traveled to key historic sites in the South to learn more about civil rights era activism.


UUSC's Kim McDonald reflected on the inspiration participants drew from civil rights activists. "Those folks were really brave," she said of the activists. "Black, white, look what they were up against. The people who continued to do things were exceptional and we can be exceptional, too."

Participants visited sites in Atlanta, Ga., and Selma, Montgomery, and Birmingham, Ala. As in previous

years, the Civil Rights Journey also included a service component, with participants conducting door-to-door voter registration and distributing information about the Georgia Citizens' Coalition on Hunger.

A highlight of this year's trip was a stop at the Enslavement and Civil Rights Museum in Selma. From the moment they arrived at the museum, Civil Rights Journey participants were immediately drawn into the experience of slaves arriving in the South from a slave ship. The museum director greeted them by shouting out "Men here! Women there!" and dramatized the slave experience by barking out orders and using humiliating and degrading language.

"You don't often have an opportunity to consider what it must have meant emotionally for a person to have everything taken away from them," said McDonald.

This was the second year that the Civil Rights Journey included participants of all ages. For participant Sandee Pomponio of Madison, Wis., the idea of passing the torch from one generation of activists to the next resonated strongly. "It was fascinating to connect with people from all over the country," said Pomponio. "Especially the teenagers. They added a lot of perspective." 

Learn more about the Civil Rights Journey and other Just Works camps by visiting www.uusc.org/justworks.



Shayla Reid/UUSC



Kim McDonald/UUSC

Above: Civil Rights Journey participants Jarrett Palmer (left) and John Gaines. Read Gaines' journal, cowritten by his wife Patricia during the Civil Rights Journey, on next page.

Left: Civil Rights Journey participants visiting the Southern Poverty Law Center in Birmingham, Ala.

Reflections on the Civil Rights Journey

John and Patricia Gaines of Groton, N.Y., participated in the third annual Civil Rights Journey. These are excerpts from reflections they recorded during the trip.

July 8, 2006

Pat: We all seem to have a similar purpose in joining this adventure. The range in ages, backgrounds, and geography brings its own dimensions and a wonderful one to us all.

July 9, 2006

John: Volunteers from the UU Congregation of Atlanta drove us to their beautiful site. We entered the sanctuary for a joyful service with lots of singing and Rev. Marti's sermon on bravery, giving us more of a framework for the week.

Our Martin Luther King, Jr., Center stop was a very moving collage of video, historical items, and historical places, especially "Sweet Auburn," his birth home, and the original Ebenezer Baptist Church. It was a very emotional experience, especially for me — particularly listening to some of his speeches.

July 10, 2006

Pat: The Rosa Parks Museum was well-done, the images were very strong, as well as varied. Southern Poverty Law Center was a great learning opportunity.

Really appreciated the individual talks. Each person had so much to show in experiences, as well as dedication. So much interesting/valuable information I'd never have gotten in any other way.

July 11, 2006

John: One of my primary objectives was to hear the stories of the civil rights movement told by the people

who were there. In Selma, my objective was met.

Joanne Bland told about the background of the voting rights marches and gave her personal testimony of Bloody Sunday and the Long March. Her account was riveting.

J. L. Chestnut told many stories about his work with the black community of Selma, the voting rights movement, and his association with Dr. King. He is a great storyteller.

What seemed even more important about what they had to say, however, is that the history and the stories are not enough — what is important is what each of us does to fight injustices in the world today. They made a strong case, each in his or her own way, for the hard work that lies ahead.

July 14, 2006

Pat: We were introduced to the staff of the Georgia Citizens' Coalition on Hunger and learned a bit about their work. Two teens did an excellent series of activities with us. They were very well prepared and the activities were fun and educational, as well as community building.

July 15, 2006

John: We were given more detailed instructions in the voter registration process and had some time to get organized. We were split into teams with some adults and some youth in each team. Each team also had a local guide to help us get around.



The history and the stories [of the civil rights movement] are not enough — what is important is what each of us does to fight injustices in the world today.

— John Gaines
Civil Rights Journey participant

I spent some time with a 90-year-old woman, a staunch Republican because Lincoln was a Republican and he freed the slaves. She had known her great-grandmother who had been born into slavery. There may not be too many people around any longer that can make that statement.

What a wonderful week it has been! The key elements for me were the visits to the historic sites, the emotional and stirring personal stories of Civil Rights Movement participants, and the diverse group of people who took the journey with us. All three elements contributed to the success of the trip. 🍷

One Year After Katrina

continued from p. 1

few schools are open. “We have rats everywhere, of course we do,” says a community organizer from the Porch Cultural Center in the Seventh Ward. “The garbage sits here for days.” The contrast in the recovery mirrors their economic and racial differences.

Over the months, no officials made clear which parts of New Orleans would be rebuilt, or even how those decisions would be made. Residents of the Lower Ninth Ward, most of whom are working class African-Americans, are still struggling to return to the devastated neighborhood.

There have been several official recommendations that the Lower Ninth neighborhoods not be rebuilt, and two attempts to bulldoze it were stopped by grassroots organizations. “We just organized and stood in front of the bulldozers,” says an ACORN organizer who grew up there.

While working class residents cannot return to the Lower Ninth Ward, the U.S. Department of Defense and the state of Louisiana approved \$250 million to rebuild the National

Guard headquarters located in that same Lower Ninth Ward. The funds will restore the damaged buildings on the 100-acre campus, which features officers’ quarters that are considered the largest cluster of antebellum buildings in the country.

Without an official plan, it is difficult for the displaced to return. A huge number of residents, displaced by the hurricane, remain in other cities. “How can working class people come back here?” says a community organizer in the Seventh Ward, “If there is no school for their kids, their apartment is full of mold, and their landlord wants to clean it and rent it out at double the cost? There is no grocery store here and no public transport.”

Homeowners are reluctant to invest what is left of their savings and what resources they can marshal on gutting and repairing a house that might be bulldozed.

A seat at the table

After a year, federal aid is finally beginning to flow in for homeowners.


Only by participating in the planning of the city’s reconstruction — having a seat at the table — can low-income people and people of color express concerns and protect their interests as the rebuilding aid arrives. But they need to know where the table is, or how to carve a path to it. There is little official aid targeted for low-income communities and communities of color who are increasingly being left out of the New Orleans recovery.

Approximately 50 percent of New Orleans’ population lived in rental housing, yet the current state recovery plan will only provide 25,000 new or restored rentals, only 4,000 of which are for low-income people. With no clear municipal plan on rental restoration, only homeowners in New Orleans see any immediate solutions (if one year qualifies as immediate).

“We’re in this huge battle,” said Jay Arena, of Hands Off Iberville, whose agency is trying to spare thousands of units of public housing from razing. “They’re just saying, ‘We don’t care, we’re going to knock it down.’”

Grassroots and community organizations are supporting their struggle to be heard.

Homeowner and PICO-ACT coordinator Mary Fontenot continues to push for the people in the affected communities to have access to decision makers. Her group has set up bimonthly meetings with New Orleans mayor, Ray Nagin. “He is still reluctant and we are still committed,” Fontenot said of Nagin.

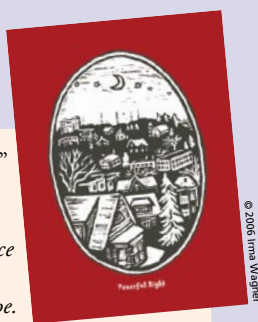
Since Katrina came roaring through New Orleans, it is the grassroots and community organizations like PICO-ACT that have committed to challenging those in power to listen to the rest of the Katrina survivors, and to take their views into account in rebuilding New Orleans. 

Announcing the 2006 UUSC Holiday Cards!



“Be the Light”
by UUSC Holiday
Card Design
Contest winner
Alex Leaver of First
Parish Church in
Plymouth, Mass.
Inside: *Blank*

“Peaceful Night”
block print by
Irma Wagner.
Inside: *May peace
be yours during
this season of hope.*



© 2006 Irma Wagner



“Starlight” from
Good Cause
Greetings.
Inside: *May all
the gifts of the
season be yours.*

Support UUSC while sharing the spirit of the season. For information on obtaining UUSC holiday cards, please visit www.uusc.org/holidaycards.

Working for justice at General Assembly

Thousands of Unitarian Universalists heard moving reports at the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association in St. Louis on how UUSC champions workers' rights and assists people excluded from relief aid after conflicts and disasters, from Sri Lanka to the U.S. Gulf Coast.

UUSC also celebrated the legacy of founders Martha and Waitstill Sharp, who in June were honored posthumously as Righteous Among the Nations by the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Israel for the couple's heroic work in Europe to save Jews during World War II (see page 6).

Justice for workers

A major UUSC focus highlighted at GA is the support for workers around the world who struggle to organize and to seek benefits and safe, reasonable working conditions.

UUSC staff, leaders, and supporters met with executives of Enterprise Rent-A-Car, a major corporation headquartered in St. Louis.

Members of the joint UUSC-UUA delegation asked Enterprise to urge its non-union janitorial subcontractor to

pay its cleaners a fair wage, negotiate with them about benefits, and stop harassing non-union workers who meet union members off site during off hours.

Activists honored

At GA, UUSC honored two social justice activists with its top awards for outstanding activism and commitment to principles that promote human rights and social justice. UUSC also presented Outstanding Local Representative awards to three dedicated members who have worked to promote UUSC membership, programs, and advocacy work in their UU congregations.

UUSC President Charlie Clements presented **Jim Bole** of Golden, Colo., with the **Social Action Leadership Award** for his outstanding leadership and long-time advocacy for UUSC in his congregation and his community. Bole is a local representative and regional coordinator for UUSC's Volunteer Network. In 2004, he was recognized as an Outstanding Local Representative.

Mike Sandmel, 16, was honored with the **Mary-Ella Holst Youth Activist Award**. A student



Jim Bole (left) of Golden, Colo., is presented with the UUSC Social Action Leadership Award by UUSC President Charlie Clements.

Nguyen Weeks/UUSC

from Brookline, Mass., Sandmel participated in UUSC's JustWorks camp in Boston that was part of our Defending Democracy 2004 campaign. He also supported a UUSC initiative in his community by working with Student Action for Justice and Education in its successful campaign to pass a living wage ordinance in Brookline.

Honored as **Outstanding Local Representatives** were: **Winnie Tyler** of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley, Bethlehem, Pa.; **Ira Mendelsberg**, of the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood, N.J.; and **Dan Moen**, of the First Universalist Church of Denver, Colo.

Rights Aloud:

SPEAKERS WITH A PASSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

UUSC staff members are passionate about human rights. Let them bring their passion to you!

Whether your event is a congregational service, community meeting, conference, or training, UUSC human rights advocates can speak to your group on a wide range of topics.

For more information about Rights Aloud, visit us online at www.uusc.org/rightsaloud, e-mail speakers@uusc.org or call 800-388-3920.



Celebrate UU Values in Action

Guest At Your Table

Each fall, UUs of all ages come together to give thanks by giving back.

Join UUSC this season as we celebrate Guest at Your Table. For over 30 years, this special UU tradition has brought our congregations together while learning how to put our values into action.

To find out how your congregation can participate in Guest at Your Table, visit:

www.uusc.org/guest

or e-mail:
volunteerservices@uusc.org

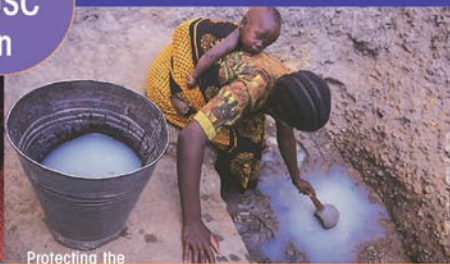
or call us:
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Defending the rights of people affected by disasters



Protecting the right to safe, affordable water



Protecting civil liberties and democratic processes



Advancing workers' rights and a living wage

Save the Date for Justice!

On Justice Sunday, March 25, 2007, UU congregations will stand together for justice. Your congregation can take action for change on an urgent human rights issue. Contact UUSC at volunteerservices@uusc.org for more information.



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