



Service Committee

NEWS

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SERVICE COMMITTEE

WINTER 2002-2003



Inserted into this issue of the SCNews is the publication, UUSC Highlights of the Year 2002. It details the accomplishments and activities of the Service Committee during the fiscal year which ended June 30, 2002.

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A steady force for women's rights in the Congo

"We support women trying to speak up. We encourage women to organize themselves to fight against the violations of their rights."

"We are training women to take charge of defending their own human rights. Women have to participate," said Immaculée Birhaheka, referring to women in the Democratic Republic of Congo. "They said, 'We are very poor - as long as we have to depend on men, other people, it's not possible to defend our human rights.'"

As the founder and president of Promotion and Support for Women's Initiatives (PAIF), Ms. Birhaheka has worked tirelessly to educate

women in the Democratic Republic of Congo about their rights. How to claim and defend those rights is one of PAIF's key objectives.

Founded in 1992, this UUSC partner is based in Goma, in the war-torn east of the Congo. It is the only women's group in the Congo

that focuses on women's rights.

During an extended stay in the United States in October 2002, Ms. Birhaheka visited several different cities across the country to talk about the crisis the people in the Congo face.

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UUSC partner visits U.S. cities to build support for Congo peace process

During the Cold War, U.S. government policy and tax dollars supported the dictatorship of Mobutu Sese Seko in what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo. Today, with its legacy of autocratic rather than democratic rule, the country is embroiled in a devastating war — a war and a

history unknown to the vast majority of Americans.

With support from UUSC, Congolese human rights activist Immaculée Birhaheka toured the United States in fall 2002. She brought riveting stories of her struggles to promote women's rights and an appeal for support from

Americans on the road toward peace.

A framework for peace
Although a geographically pivotal and resource rich country, the Congo has not received international attention commensurate with its grave humanitarian crisis or

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A message from the Board of Trustees **Recommendations sought for UUSC board**

UUSC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Dear Members and Friends of UUSC,

It is with pleasure that we once again greet you in print, thank you for your generous, ongoing support of UUSC, and invite your personal involvement in helping us to become a more effective Board of Trustees.

At our annual meeting in June, UUSC members approved a revised set of bylaws that, among other things, changed the way candidates are nominated to the board. Under the old system, geographical diversity was considered very important to good governance and resulted in most board members being selected from different regions of the country.

This model worked well for several years but eventually became restrictive. Why? Because, with changing times, regional representation no longer guaranteed that the best-qualified people would be chosen to perform the myriad duties that today's national organizations require.

In spearheading the revision of our old bylaws, this

board essentially said to you, "With your help, we know we can be a better board. Will you help us recruit the best trustees possible?" Today, UUSC needs trustees who will bring to the board a balance of unique qualifications and far-reaching vision. We need a board that is diverse in make-up and includes non-UUs who will offer fresh perspectives while sharing a common concern for justice.

Positive qualities of potential candidates

What are the personal qualities that the National Nominating Committee is looking for in potential candidates? Because the work of the board covers a broad range of responsibilities, a variety of skills is needed. Common sense is important in a candidate, but so are professional knowledge, rich life experiences, and unique talents that complement the board's efforts.

Candidates must be committed to justice-making in the world rather than adamant crusaders for pet causes. They must be forward-looking and able to see the "big picture."

They must be comfortable working at the policy-making level and good at collaborating with others. They must be quietly deliberative as well as appropriately assertive. And because UUSC has a public trust to uphold, they must be able to bridge the religious and secular worlds with ease.

If the above description sounds like you, we hope you will tell us about yourself. If not, is there someone from within your religious community, your place of work, or from among your community's leaders and activists whom you can strongly recommend? If so, we urge you to send that person's name and address to our National Nominating Committee, along with a clear statement about why you believe that person would be a valuable, committed trustee. Address the information to: National Nominating Committee, UUSC Board of Trustees, 130 Prospect Street, Cambridge, MA 02139-1845

Warm regards to all,

UUSC Board of Trustees



*Nancy Moore,
 UUSC Interim Executive Director*

UUSC board appoints interim executive director

The UUSC Board of Trustees has announced the appointment of Nancy Moore as its interim executive director. She will serve in this capacity until a permanent president is appointed within the next six to nine months. At that time, she will assume the post of chief operating officer.

Ms. Moore brings to the Service Committee a breadth of experience in managing

people, projects and organizations. Over the past 25 years, she has combined working in private sector organizations in increasingly responsible management positions with volunteering in the nonprofit sector as a member of various boards. Most recently, she was a senior vice president for Core, Inc., a nationwide disability health care management service organization based in Boston, Mass.

"The Search Committee is delighted to have found such a talented individual with strong relationship skills, a fervent commitment to human rights and social justice, and a proven professional background in administration and management," said Rick Van Dyke, chair of UUSC's Board of Trustees and chair of its search committee.

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Guatemala: A long road to peace

by Allison D. Kent, Associate for Programs

The biggest challenge facing Guatemala today is the remobilization and civil unrest by the ex-PACs, or paramilitary, who were responsible for massacres in indigenous Mayan villages, disappearances and torture during the long civil war.

When the Peace Accords were signed in Guatemala in 1996, human rights and indigenous rights advocates, along with members of the international community, looked forward to moving the country toward a lasting peace. Unfortunately, many of those in the country's human rights community believe that the country is slipping back into paramilitary mobilization, military repression and intimidation.

The biggest challenge facing Guatemala today is the remobilization and civil unrest by the ex-PACs, or paramilitary,

Promoting indigenous women's rights

UUSC has supported ASICER's work in training indigenous women leaders in rural communities. In October, women leaders from five different indigenous communities across Guatemala came together for a training that included information on the political system in Guatemala, the content and implementation of the peace accords, women's role in society and women's rights.

As one of the human rights promoters with ASICER who led the trainings explained, "We are conscious of the risk that there is in working in [the field of] human rights, not only for us [the trainers] but for the people we help organize. The ex-PACs don't allow freedom of organization, instead, they are intimidating people."

Power of paramilitary continues

In Guatemala today, the ex-PACs are mobilizing to demand payment from the government for their "services" during the war, reparations which, according to the peace accords, are due to the victims of human rights abuses.

The president of the Guatemalan congress is the former military dictator, General Efraín Ríos Montt, who presided over the worst years of the violence. Because of this, it is not surprising that the mobilization of the ex-PACs is supported by many in the political establishment for whom the group is a key constituency.

Although unsurprising, the mobilization is cause for alarm in the human rights community. Frank LaRue, director of the largest and most respected human rights organization in Guatemala today, and former UUSC partner, the Center for Legal Action in Human

Rights (CALDH), asked rhetorically, "Why are the PACs organizing again, making lists of members, in a time of peace? This is the biggest challenge in Guatemala to the peace process."

Impunity of human rights violators challenged

In recent months, as the ex-PACs have re-mobilized, Guatemala has also tested the will of the justice system in dealing with the impunity of human rights violators of the past. The results have been mixed at best in a country where there are routine death threats and other forms of intimidation directed against judges, prosecutors, investigators and other participants in the few cases which have been brought forward challenging human rights violations perpetrated by the military forces both during and after the civil war.

At ASICER, they were pleased with the Oct. 3 conviction of a senior military official in the Myrna Mack murder case. Ms. Mack, who was murdered in 1990, had been conducting research on the human rights violations against indigenous rural communities by military and paramilitary forces that included the deaths of an estimated 200,000 people, mostly indigenous Mayans. The verdict represented the first time that a senior military official in Guatemala was convicted for his role in human rights violations committed during the civil war.

"The decision is an advance for human rights in Guatemala," declared Oscar Enriquez, director of ASICER. Unfortunately, a week later, an appeals court in Guatemala reversed the sentence of the four men, three military officials and a priest, convicted in another case, that of the murder of Roman

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UUSC supports the work of the Association of Research, Training and Rural Development in training indigenous women leaders in rural Guatemalan communities.

tary, who were responsible for massacres in indigenous Mayan villages, disappearances and torture during the long civil war. The power of the ex-PACs can be felt the most in the indigenous rural communities, including those where UUSC partner, the Association of Research, Training and Rural Extension (ASICER), is actively working.

TAKE ACTION FOR PEACE IN THE CONGO

Write Secretary of State Colin Powell and urge that our government increase its support for the Congolese peace process, as well as conflict-resolution throughout in Central Africa. Write to Secretary Powell at: U.S. Department of State, 21st and C Streets, NW, Washington, D.C. 20050.

MESSAGE: Mr. Secretary of State, please ensure that our government exercises leadership at the U.N. Security Council and provides full political and financial backing for the United Nations military forces and human rights mission in Democratic Republic of the Congo. Peace in the Congo will contribute to regional conflict-resolution.

You also can send a message by e-mail or fax directly to Secretary Powell through our online Legislative Action Center. Visit our Web site, www.uusc.org.

UUSC partner visits U.S. to build support for Congo peace process

(continued from page 1)

the forward momentum in its peace process. Fortunately, there is reason for hope despite such difficult circumstances, according to Ms. Birhaheka, president and co-founder of UUSC partner organization, Promotion and support for Women's Initiatives. Key parties to the conflict inside and outside the Congo signed the Lusaka peace accords in 1999. The accords address the intervention of foreign troops backing various internal actors, as well as internal conflicts. Three inter-related tracks in peace building include a broad-based dialogue and rebuilding of political institutions; disarmament of non-Congolese groups based in the Congo and foreign troop withdrawal.

The United Nations has a vital human rights and military monitoring presence in the country. A U.N.-sponsored panel's recent report on pillage of the country's natural resources won wide coverage and commentary.

Foreign troop withdrawals from Congolese soil now underway must be accompanied by an expanded fully funded

now underway offers the best hope for ending the military conflict, transition to democratic rule and greater human rights protections. Our government's political and financial leadership will signal our commitment to work with the Congolese people for peace and democracy.

Despite its many challenges, the peace process now underway offers the best hope for ending the military conflict, transition to democratic rule and greater human rights protections.

Peace needed to bolster women's rights protection and promotion

Africa's third largest country, the Congo is divided by war, the west government-controlled and until very recently totally cut off from the rebel-controlled east, which borders on neighboring Rwanda and Burundi. Refugees from Rwanda streamed into the Congo after the 1994 genocide. Among the refugees were *genocidaires*, men responsible for the Rwandan genocide whom the international community never separated from the main refugee population.

The widespread presence of foreign troops, rebel soldiers and marauding men creates an inhospitable climate for the protection and promotion of human rights. Human Rights Watch recently documented the rape of women as a weapon of war, with PAIF as a source. The recruitment of boys as soldiers is common.

With 20 million people lacking access to basic services, the education and health in-

frastructure is almost non-existent, complicating attention to HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases.

Armed groups look with suspicion on PAIF because of its non-politicized human rights documentation, its work among the poorest and its ability to interpret the current situation to international visitors. Despite repeat harassment, Ms. Birhaheka has remained in her country, determined to contribute to the peace process, democratization and a culture of respect for human rights.

Promising steps ahead in the peace process

In Spring 2002 in South Africa, the Inter-Congolese Dialogue reached broad decisions about the country's political future, while a July 30 Congolese-Rwandan agreement paved the way for the foreign troop withdrawal now underway, to be verified by the United Nations and South Africa. In late October, government and rebel leaders met in South Africa to discuss power-sharing arrangements with U.N. Special Envoy Moustapha Niasse, who planned to continue talks in Congo with both armed and unarmed opposition groups. Although this represents progress in the peace process, its continued forward movement will depend on political leadership from the international community - and notably the United States - to guarantee the additional United Nations funding and troops that this grave crisis warrants. Immaculée Birhaheka and her PAIF colleagues believe that this is a situation in which UUSC and its supporters can make a difference.



presence of U.N. troops.

UUSC partners urge stronger U.S. backing and a wider role for MONUC, the U.N. military monitoring force in

the Congo. Despite its many challenges, the peace process

Women are a vital force for peace in the Congo

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Encouraging women to organize themselves

PAIF has been a steady force for women's rights in the face of the ongoing human rights abuses that accompany the relentless conflict and economic instability in this region of the Congo. "Women's initiatives are not only economic initiatives," said Ms. Birhaheka, in an interview at UUSC offices in Cambridge, Mass. "We support women trying to speak up. We encourage women to organize themselves to fight against the violations of their rights."

After working as a secondary school teacher, Ms. Birhaheka trained as a social worker, eventually getting a master's degree in rural development. She worked briefly in a hospital before joining a research group studying development among rural women. It was then that the seeds for PAIF were planted. It was then she realized, she said, "We have to organize ourselves because there is no group of women started by women."

Today they face problems caused by the ongoing violent conflict and lack of government leadership in the region. The recent volcanic eruption of Mt. Nyiragongo only served to exacerbate an already difficult situation, leaving scores of women homeless, without resources and vulnerable to abuses including sexual assault.

No development without human rights

Educating women about their rights is at the core of PAIF's mission. "There is no development without human rights,"

stated Ms. Birhaheka. For example, she said, "You can own land but someone can take it if there are no rights." PAIF staff members educate Congolese women about such issues as violence against women, women's working conditions and inheritance rights. PAIF offers informational training and allows women to exchange experiences through dialogue. Using a variety of creative methods, including radio and television programs, as well as newspapers, they are able to increase the number of women they can reach. They also provide legal advice to women in need.

In 2000, U.N. Commissioner on Human Rights Mary Robinson awarded the Martin Ennals Human Rights Award to Ms. Birhaheka. But for Ms. Birhaheka, this and other awards PAIF has received are more than just recognition for the work they have done. They serve as leverage for the work they continue to do. "This allows us to open doors. The authorities have to listen to us because we are recognized on a higher level," she said.

This leverage is important to Ms. Birhaheka, who has been targeted by the rebel group, the Rally for Congolese Democracy (RCD), for her human rights activities. She has been detained and beaten and continues to be harassed and threatened by the RCD.

Although PAIF's work focuses on the rights of women and children, Ms. Birhaheka recognizes that they must also work with the men in the community if attitudes are to be changed. In a com-



Immaculée Birhaheka is the founder and president of UUSC partner, Promotion and Support for Women's Initiatives, which teaches women in the Congo about their rights and how to defend them.

munity where young girls are taken out of school and sent to town to work, it is imperative to do more than teach women their rights. "We have a challenge," said Ms. Birhaheka. "If my own family doesn't recognize that I, as a woman, represent the family, how can we become government ministers? We have to learn how to be ministers, but we have to start in our own families."

The future of PAIF

Ms. Birhaheka said, "We are making progress but it is difficult to see. The war is breaking our efforts." For this reason, she sees international advocacy efforts to end the war by governments such as the U.S. as crucial to restoring human rights to eastern Congo. She hopes that UUSC members and supporters will lobby the U.S. government to call for the removal of Rwandan, Zimbabwean, Angolan, Ugandan and Namibian soldiers from the Congo.

Even with the removal of the foreign soldiers, that would not be enough. There would still be the internal

militias to contend with.

"They have to help us disarm these groups and rebuild a new country that is disciplined and controlled."

PAIF faces many challenges in the year ahead. In the days and months to come, they will continue to focus their work on key issues such as sexual exploitation of young girls, and assistance for women victims of rape and torture.

Today, Ms. Birhaheka sees the emergence of other groups as a sign of progress and cause for hope. To her, the emergence of other women's group signals a growing notion that women can be leaders in their communities.

"In the beginning, the whole society didn't understand what we wanted to do. As long as we are fighting the war, people understood that it was important," said Ms. Birhaheka. "We now have many groups that are involved in human rights. We don't believe that we are organizing something only for women."

Congress misses opportunity for progressive welfare reform

By Mary Anderson Cooper, National Council of Churches

A new Congress that was elected in November 2002, and the growing federal deficit and pressure to spend massively on homeland security and preparations for war, will make additional funding for child care or any other aspect of TANF less likely with every passing day.

Among the issues before Congress when it reconvened after its summer recess, none was more important to low-income people in the United States than the reauthorization of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), or welfare reform. However, Congress dropped the opportunity to make constructive changes in TANF, opting instead for a temporary short-term extension of the present program. TANF was reauthorized only through the first quarter of 2003, presumably giving Congress time to conduct in 2003 the debate and legislative work they should have done in 2002 to reauthorize the program. It seems most likely that early this year they will either reauthorize the current program for three years with a few changes or approve a revised program along the lines sought by President George W. Bush's administration.

Work mandate increased

The House passed the Bush administration's proposal in May, while the Senate Finance Committee approved a tripartisan measure that improved significantly on the current welfare system. This progress will apparently be lost, because time ran out in this Congress before the legislators completed the job.

The House bill increased the work requirement for recipients of TANF cash benefits from 30 to 40 hours per week. For mothers of preschool children, this would have doubled the requirement from the 20

hours current law mandates. The House bill provided no increased child care funding to meet the needs it would have created. The House measure also would have sharply reduced education and training opportunities for welfare recipients seeking to enter the work force. Current law lets them participate in vocational education for 12 months and count it as compliance with the work requirement. The House bill cut that figure to three months. The House also mandated that 70 percent of the adult welfare caseload engage in work or a limited list of work-related activities.

The National Council of Churches and UUSC, along with many other nongovernmental organizations, have advocated for several years for welfare laws that provide support to help families during the transition from welfare to work.

Senate bill provides supports

The Senate legislation retained the current 30-hour work requirement but accepted the 70 percent participation rate, while being far more generous in what counted toward that goal. For example, it would have counted 24 months of participation in vocational education.

The Finance Committee bill included a proposal by Sen. Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, giving states the option to allow up to 10 percent of their caseload to attend college. Students would have to raise their own tuition, attend full time for the first two years, meet rigorous performance standards, and be on a path leading to future employability. In later years, a student could combine school with work.

This plan is based on Maine's highly successful Par-

ents as Scholars program, which produces college-educated people who leave TANF for steady jobs with wages 50 percent higher than those of TANF leavers who do not attend college.

Aid for immigrants

The Senate measure provided an additional \$5.5 billion for child care over five years, still far short of the actual need. Currently, only one child in seven who is eligible for assistance actually receives a subsidy under the Child Care and Development Block Grant.

The Senate bill contained a feature of particular interest to the religious community by giving states the option to reinstate welfare and Medicaid benefits for legal immigrants. The 1996 welfare reform legislation denied food stamps, cash aid, and health care coverage to poor legal immigrants in the country less than five years. Congress later restored some health and nutrition benefits to immigrant children and the elderly and disabled, but many families were afraid to apply.

The advocacy community continued to push for action on the Senate bill until the last minute. A new Congress that was elected in November 2002, and the growing federal deficit and pressure to spend massively on homeland security and preparations for war, will make additional funding for child care or any other aspect of TANF less likely with every passing day. The Republican resumption of control of the Senate puts Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, in charge of the Finance Committee, which has jurisdiction over TANF. He has already announced that he favors increasing the work requirement and will push to accomplish that.

As the *Service Committee News* went to press, the president had submitted his TANF reauthorization proposal to the new Congress. The measure is similar to last year's administration plan that increased work requirements without adequate child care and other supports.



Together, We Can Change the World

UUSC Highlights of 2002

*We transform
the voices of our
individual members
into one powerful voice
for human rights.*

A world transformed by justice

During the past year, we have faced many extraordinary challenges and special joys, and through it all we have been able to transform the caring and good will of many into concrete support for men, women and children who struggle daily for freedom, justice, equality and peace. Through the generosity of our members and supporters, we have been able to redouble our work to protect and promote human rights in the United States and internationally.

By its very nature, the work of the Service Committee is transformational. We transform the resources of our membership - financial, human and material - into support for program partners working at the local level for social justice. We transform the work of small, diverse groups working for justice in

their home communities into a national and international network of thousands of human rights advocates, sharing information and strategies to effect long-term change.

But it does not end there. UUSC is able to transform our partners' information into powerful educational and advocacy tools for our members. We seek policy changes that enhance human rights in the United States and abroad. We transform the voices of our individual members into one powerful voice for human rights.

This year, we have witnessed how the actions of a few can affect so many, in both destructive and constructive ways. Our work demonstrates that the positive actions of a few, when joined together, can have a worldwide impact. We have transformed the gen-

erosity of individuals into concrete support for those affected by the devastation of the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, the volcanic eruption in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the enduring injustices in Afghanistan and the everyday human rights struggles of our partners.

We have extended our reach empowering women, defending the rights of children and supporting the struggles of oppressed racial, ethnic and indigenous groups around the world and in the United States. We have dedicated ourselves to strengthening existing programs with the knowledge that the work we do becomes more and more crucial in these rapidly chang-



UUSC partners in Guatemala promoted human rights awareness and civic participation among indigenous women. These women participated in a human rights training sponsored by the Association of Research, Training and Rural Extension.

Supporting the struggles of oppressed racial, ethnic and indigenous groups

UUSC staff and partners attended the United Nations World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (WCAR) in Durban, South Africa beginning in late August 2001. More than 7,000 members representing more than a thousand nongovernmental organizations were in Durban.

We witnessed the powerful effect that a group armed with knowledge about their rights can have in transforming oppression. Our partner El Taller

International and the Asian Women's Rights Council conducted a daylong World Court of Women against Racism. Another partner organization, the Center for Organization Research and Education (CORE), from India, provided leadership in getting the issue of Dalit rights onto the world conference agenda.

Renewing our commitment
We returned from WCAR, as did our partners, with a renewed sense of purpose and commitment to defending the

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UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SERVICE COMMITTEE

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UUSC RESPONDS TO A DEVASTATED NATION AFTER SEPT. 11

Immediately following the Sept. 11 attacks, UUSC issued a joint appeal with the Unitarian Universalist Association for funds to aid the victims and their families. Bolstered by an unprecedented outpouring of support, we were able to move quickly to identify 24 organizations that best enabled us to help those who might otherwise have been overlooked. Among them is Project Renewal, which helped the "invisible" homeless population that lived in the vicinity of the

World Trade Center. Also supported by UUSC, the Children's Aid Society provided and still provides medical services to address the rise in respiratory ailments. The Stonewall Foundation supported the gay and lesbian partners of victims and helped change policies which previously excluded gay partners from receiving state funds or those from disaster relief agencies like the Red Cross.

More than \$1.13 million in aid was raised and we have passed 100 percent of the funds to organizations serving poor or



neglected communities affected. We received also donations from the Dover Corporation and the Ohrstrom Foundation. These, coupled with other

grants from 3Com Corporation, CNA and the American Express Foundation, can only be seen as votes of confidence in our programmatic work.

INDIAN WOMEN ORGANIZE FOR A LIVING WAGE

With help from UUSC partner, the Forum for Women's Rights and Development (FORWARD), women quarry workers in Tamil Nadu, India, organized themselves and protested the low and irregular pay they were receiving. Eventually, they won their battle and now the quarry owners pay them a living wage.

Shanti, a woman leader, said, "It is empowering to realize that Dalit women, who were oppressed all these centuries, kept voiceless and powerless, became vociferous and powerful. The myth with which we were kept in silence - Dalits are untouchables - is broken now, when we understand that this myth is a pure play of the upper caste people. We value this knowledge more than anything else."

A message for our members and supporters

From the Chair

Often we measure lasting significance through defining moments. September 11 and the tragic events of that day will have lasting significance for many, although what the meaning will be will take many different forms. For the Service Committee, it was a call to redouble our efforts to protect and promote human rights and social justice throughout the world.

We have had other such defining moments in our 62-year history, beginning with our origins in response to the Nazi horrors of WWII. But through our work at UUSC, we have learned to appreciate the cumulative effect many seemingly smaller moments have in creating lasting change. As is so aptly illustrated in chaos theory, a butterfly flapping its wings in China may contribute to the start of a tornado in Kansas. What, then, does a tornado contribute to?

This year, your extraordinary generosity raised \$1.13 million for the joint UUSC/UUA relief effort after Sept. 11. We channeled 100 percent of the funds raised to 24 groups that assisted individuals and communities that may have been neglected by traditional relief agencies, touching thousands of lives.

Yet, despite the major mobilization of resources and staff that made this massive undertaking possible, we never lost sight of the significance of our existing priorities. To our partners in India, perhaps the most significant work done by UUSC will turn out to be our continuing support of Dalit (untouchable) women in India who, by achieving some financial independence also find civil freedoms. Or for refugee women and children in Afghanistan, it will perhaps be our work supporting organizations that provide much needed education and skills training.

At UUSC, we find inspiration in the certain knowledge that each year, for thousands, our support makes a difference. We are buoyed by our faith and hope that the difference is significant in the long run as well as in the short run.

The Board of Trustees will continue working to keep UUSC viable in an increasingly competitive world of human rights activists. We will look for those long-range goals that will define this organization as one that does its work distinctively, efficiently and with impact that improves the lives of thousands. And we will work with assurance that UUSC projects really do make a difference.

Thank you to all our contributors and supporters because this difference we make, we can only make together.

With warm regards,

Dale E. Arnink



Leading through education, action and advocacy

We create educational opportunities that enable us to share with our members and supporters what we have learned through our work with our partners. Our members and supporters transform their communities through activities that move from education to action to advocacy to combat threats to social justice here in the United States.

We also increased significantly the number of policy and legislative action alerts we have shared with our members this year, with strong emphasis on the use of the Web site. These alerts enable activists to hold their elected officials accountable, strengthen our collective voice on policy pri-

orities, and participate in important ongoing efforts to redirect U.S. policies in ways that better support human rights.

Engaging members through action

UUSC workcamps are short-term action projects that bring UUSC volunteers together with communities in need. This year's workcamp season started off with the third Youth and Young Adult workcamp in the farm worker town of Crewport, Wash. Working together with the Washington Education Association, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Yakima and Crewport residents, UUSC volunteers

built a playground so children would have a safe place to play.

We also completed a successful Alternative Spring Break workcamp on the La Jolla Indian Reservation in San Diego, Calif. In March, 13 volunteers, including students from the University of Wisconsin and Colby College in Maine, tutored Native American children and refurbished the community's education center.

Strategies to battle poverty

UUSC offered congregations hands-on opportunities to collectively work for justice through activities such as UUs United for Social Justice, an action learning curricula which helps congregations and community groups address persistent poverty in the United States.

Through the UUSC Coffee Project, 201 UU congregations have supported fair trade with coffee farmers and provided funds for local human rights projects in the coffee growing regions.



UUSC partners were at the forefront of the Dalit rights movement at the U.N. World Conference against Racism in August. This man's headband says, "Dalit rights are human rights."

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2002

Public Support and Revenue

Unrestricted	4,769,000
Temporarily restricted	82,000
Permanently restricted	307,000

Total Public Support and Revenue 5,158,000

Expenses

Program services	3,473,000
Fund raising	653,000
Management and general	851,000

Total expenses 4,977,000

Change in net assets 181,000

Complete audited financial reports are available upon request.

Supporting the struggles of oppressed racial, ethnic and indigenous groups

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rights of oppressed racial, ethnic and indigenous peoples. With UUSC support, our partner, the Karen Human Rights Group of Burma, released an intensive research effort in October, "Flight, Hunger and Survival." The report documents the systematic displacement of tens of thousands of people in the northern Karen districts since 1997.

This year, we also expanded our work with the Tibetan community, struggling against oppression by the occupying Chinese government. In September 2001, UUSC sponsored a one-week human rights training program for the Tibetan community living in exile in India. We also supported the publication and distribution of the first book on human rights written in the Tibetan language.

Our support enhanced the work of various Mexican human rights groups in their vital monitoring, protection and education work. Wide international visibility for President Vicente Fox - whose election brought to power an opposition party for the first time in decades - presented special challenges to all partners involved in chronicling the enduring pattern of human rights abuses in Mexico.

UUSC support helped partners, among them Fray Bartolomé de las Casas Human Rights Center in Chiapas, get out the word about cases of torture, harassment and the Mexican government's lack of accountability to its people, especially indigenous people.



Women transforming communities

The number of women in the world who still face oppression and restricted civil liberties was just one of the many issues brought into sharper focus this year. By supporting education and advocacy efforts at the grassroots level, we empower women to transform their own communities.



(l-r) Rose Kardashian, Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN) board member; Robert Broderick, New Jersey Education Association; Jackie Ladd, UUSC staff; and Tonya Hall, SPAN staff, at a recent conference sponsored by SPAN, a UUSC partner.

Transformation through education

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, UUSC partner Promotion and Support for Women's Initiatives (PAIF) prioritizes women's empowerment through its outreach to grassroots activists on gender issues. A leading peace advocate in the war-torn east, PAIF continues to address grave problems of women in conflict. Energized by its dedication to women's rights and peace advocacy, UUSC facilitated PAIF participation in the U.N. World Conference against Racism. In July, PAIF organized a large workshop on advocacy and women's rights in the rural village of Katana.

Our partner in Guatemala, Pro Mujer Association of Villa

Nueva, began a citizen participation program for women. During the first phase of this project, they trained women leaders in 30 communities. Women's participation in the political process is a key element in the process of implementing lasting peace in Guatemala.

U.S.-based program partner the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network, Inc., (SPAN) of New Jersey created education and action workbooks for grassroots organizations. SPAN coaches parents to advance their civil and political rights and the rights of their children. UUSC supported researching and producing the advocacy manual for welfare rights organizations.

Protecting rights during disasters

We once again responded to disasters in which human rights were being threatened, working with partners to identify communities that might otherwise be overlooked in the emergencies.

In January, the city of Goma in eastern Congo was devastated by a volcanic eruption. The lava flow destroyed the offices of our longtime partner, PAIF, reorienting staff time from women's rights

advocacy to meet the devastating emergency and advocate for a coordinated relief effort. With UUSC support, PAIF was able to secure a new office with some limited furnishings and supplies, enabling them to continue their human rights work.

We were concerned about the human rights situation in Afghanistan even before the tragic events of Sept. 11

turned international attention there. Years of civil strife, an oppressive regime and an ongoing drought all contributed to the struggles. We identified several local, grassroots organizations in Pakistan and Afghanistan that we are supporting to advance the rights of women and children, hardest hit by the destruction.

Working together with our members



Volunteers at the third Youth and Young Adult Workcamp in the farm worker town of Crewport, Wash., worked together to build a playground so the children would have a safe place to play.

We have strengthened our ability to communicate with our members and supporters in a variety of ways. In addition to our monthly e-mail bulletin that now reaches more than 3,500 individuals and groups, we maintain an electronic bulletin board. These bulletin boards help our members and other Web surfers share ideas and information easily and quickly with our staff and each other. You may join the e-mail bulletin or

share ideas on the bulletin board by visiting www.uusc.org.

In August 2001, we established the Ambassadors Council. More than 100 individuals have committed to serving as honorary or active ambassadors in five regions. Active ambassadors raise awareness in their congregations about the work of the Service Committee in an effort to expand and strengthen the number of members and supporters.



Protecting the rights of children and youth



Participating in the Young Religious Unitarian Universalists Social Justice Conference are members of the UUSC partner, the Lawrence Teen Coalition. They are (kneeling) Nelson Butten and (standing, l-r) Nina Van, Cindy Tran, Jessica Van, Pavel Payano, Patricia Benitez and George Chau.

As we worked to defend the rights of children and train the next generation of social justice advocates, UUSC participated in the Young Religious Unitarian Universalists Social Justice Conference with the Lawrence Teen Coalition and the Seton Asian Center. The conference brought together UU youth with urban Latino and Asian youth from Lawrence, Mass., to discuss how youth can work together to advance social justice.

We also conducted two successful workcamps designed primarily for youth, the Youth and Young Adult workcamp in Washington state and the Alternative Spring Break workcamp on the La Jolla Native American reservation in San Diego County, Calif. These experiences transformed both communities and participants through a potent combination of action and advocacy.

A voice for justice

UUSC prioritizes select public policy issues for concentrated attention each year. Well-targeted use of agency resources enhances our effectiveness, increases our political impact and can stimulate activism.

A key public policy priority this past year included addressing domestic poverty and in particular renewed funding and better guidelines for welfare programs. Our work in this area was highlighted by the testimony in April of our executive director before a

U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee on proposals for the next round of welfare reform. Earlier, more than 100 advocates from 24 states and the District of Columbia gathered for the five-part audio conferences entitled "Up from Poverty." UUSC teamed up with the National Council of Churches to host the series, designed to help grassroots groups and individuals influence the national public policy debate leading up to the reauthorization of assistance for welfare-to-work families.

UUSC staff and members also helped to bring about policy advances on key international advocacy priorities. In follow-up to our support throughout 2000 for the pioneering legislation to combat trafficking in persons, UUSC worked closely with the offices of Sens. Paul Wellstone, D-Minn., and Sam Brownback, R-Kan., and helped secure \$5 million in funding to implement the new law.

UUSC directed its members' advocacy toward the executive branch, calling for proactive U.S. diplomacy to support conflict-resolution in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Given our emphasis on women in conflict, UUSC

supported a wider role for Congolese women in the ongoing African-led peace process there.

UUSC built on past legislative victories toward the goal of ending the U.S. economic embargo of Cuba. UUSC and its coalition colleagues worked closely with bipartisan legislators who led successful votes in the full House to permit the sale of food and medicine to Cuba. UUSC alerted activists in advance of a successful Republican-led House vote on the right to travel to Cuba.

Persistent human rights problems under the administration of President Vicente Fox of Mexico, including the suspicious death of Mexican human rights lawyer and colleague Digna Ochoa, figured prominently in UUSC meetings with Mexican and U.S. officials about continued threats and attacks against Mexican human rights defenders. Building on similar work in prior years, UUSC policy staff arranged meetings with U.S. policy-makers for Mexican partners visiting Washington, D.C. to testify before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.



A woman at the U.N. World Conference against Racism protests the embargo on Cuba. Ending the embargo continues to be at the forefront of UUSC advocacy efforts.



Share your gifts, join the legacy

One of the most powerful partnerships that UUSC maintains is with our members and supporters. As an independent organization, UUSC relies on individual members, congregations and foundations for most of the support needed to develop and sustain its programs. We transform these gifts into support for our partner organizations around the world.

Members of the UUSC board and Volunteer Network provided essential leadership in our fundraising efforts last year.

The Service Committee is grateful to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, N.Y., which contributed \$675,000 through its matching gift program for unrestricted contributions from

individuals of \$60 or more.

In addition, the Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock made a \$70,000 project grant to UUSC.

Guest at Your Table 2002 was extremely successful, with more than 475 congregations participating. This year's total of \$327,508 exceeded last year's totals for the same time period.

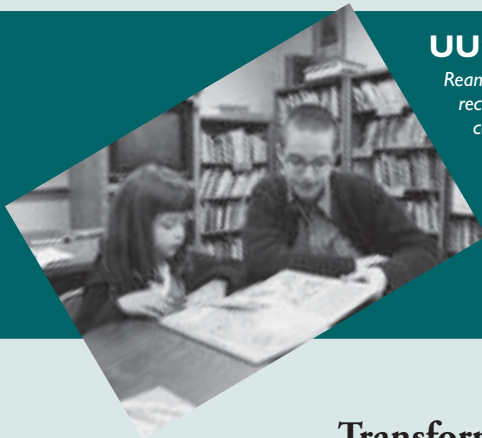
Public employee campaign donors contributed more than \$130,000 to UUSC through the International Service Agencies, a federation of internationally focused organizations. In FY02, six new planned gifts were received totaling more than \$100,000, both as charitable gift annuities and gifts to the pooled income fund.

The following foundations made grants to UUSC this past year:

- Next Culture Initiative
- The Susan and Donald Babson
- Charitable Foundation
- Tides Foundation
- Peierls Foundation, Inc.

In addition, the Benton Foundation named UUSC as one of the advocacy organizations to receive donated time and consultation resources to help shape effective messages during the final six months of the national debate over the reauthorization of welfare reform.

An unprecedented flood of support for the UUA/UUSC September 11 Humanitarian Relief Fund resulted in more than \$1 million for victims and their families. We passed 100 percent of the amount raised for the Sept. 11 fund to recipient organizations.



UUSC HONORS SOCIAL ACTION LEADERSHIP

Reannon Peterson, a senior at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, received the Mary-Ella Holst Youth Activist Award for her leadership in coordinating student participation at UUSC's Alternative Spring Break Workcamp. Here, she is shown tutoring a young Luiseño Indian girl at the La Jolla Reservation in San Diego County, Calif.

Leslie Weinberg of Stamford, Conn., was honored with the Social Action Leadership Award and Rev. Mark Christian, minister of the First Unitarian Church of Oklahoma City, Okla., was the recipient of the Vision of Justice Sermon Award.

Transforming the world through justice

We invite you to become a force for social change. Join us to promote women's rights in the Congo and work to bring peace to that war-torn nation. Support our work with partners around the world in their struggles to bring justice to poor and oppressed communities. Be a leader in building on the lessons of the World Con-

ference against Racism by speaking out for racial understanding and reconciliation, both in distant corners of the world and in your own community in the United States.

For more than 60 years, we have worked with our membership to help transform the world in which we live. From the impoverished areas in

India to embattled regions of Africa to indigenous communities in Latin America and in the front lines of the civil rights movement in the United States, we combine the resources of our program partners and our members and other supporters to transform the world through justice.



Honor UU Congregations for Fiscal Year 2002

CORPORATE GIVING AWARDS

These gifts institutionalize a congregation's deep commitment to justice and human rights through the work of UUSC.

HELEN FOGG CHALICE CONGREGATIONS

Recognizes congregations for their generous line-item contribution of a gift from their annual budget of at least \$25 per member

MASSACHUSETTS	South Natick <i>Eliot Church</i>	NEW YORK
Berlin <i>First Parish Church</i>	Westwood <i>First Parish, United Church</i>	Manhasset <i>UU Congregation at Shelter Rock</i>
Eastham <i>Nauset Fellowship, Inc.</i>		
Norwell <i>First Parish Church</i>		

JAMES LUTHER ADAMS CONGREGATIONS

Recognizes congregations that support UUSC through a line-item gift from their annual budget of at least \$1 per member

ALASKA Anchorage	GEORGIA Atlanta <i>Northwest UU Congregation</i>	Carlisle Duxbury East Bridgewater Harvard Newburyport Rockport Sterling Swampscott Watertown Weston Winchendon	Croton-on-Hudson Jamestown Mohegan Lake New York <i>Unitarian Church of All Souls</i> Rochester <i>First Unitarian Church</i> Rock Tavern Syracuse <i>May Memorial UU Society</i>	Fort Worth <i>Westside UU Church</i> Galveston Houston <i>Emerson Unitarian Church</i> Huntsville <i>Unitarian Fellowship</i>
ARIZONA Green Valley Surprise	ILLINOIS Carbondale Chicago <i>Third Unitarian Church</i> Rockford Urbana	MICHIGAN Ann Arbor <i>Ann Arbor Unitarian Fellowship</i>	NORTH CAROLINA Durham <i>Eno River UU Fellowship</i> Hillsborough	VERMONT Chester Montpelier
ARKANSAS Fayetteville Hot Springs Village	INDIANA Indianapolis <i>Oaklandon Universalist Church</i>	MINNESOTA Mankato St. Cloud Wayzata	OHIO Akron Berea Cincinnati <i>First Unitarian Church</i> St. John's Unitarian Church Dayton Wooster	VIRGINIA Burke Fredericksburg
CALIFORNIA Long Beach Palo Alto Riverside San Diego <i>First Unitarian Universalist Church</i> San Rafael Santa Barbara Seal Beach Studio City	IOWA Davenport	MISSOURI St. Louis	NORTH CAROLINA Durham <i>Eno River UU Fellowship</i> Hillsborough	WASHINGTON Bellevue Bellingham Blaine Des Moines Marysville Seattle <i>University Unitarian Church</i> <i>Rainier Valley UU Congregation</i> Shoreline
COLORADO Denver <i>First Unitarian Church</i>	KENTUCKY Louisville <i>Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Church</i>	NEVADA Reno	SOUTH CAROLINA Clemson	WISCONSIN Madison <i>First Unitarian Society</i> Milwaukee <i>First Unitarian Society</i> Woodruff
CONNECTICUT West Hartford Westport	LOUISIANA Lafayette New Orleans <i>Community Church, UU</i>	NEW HAMPSHIRE Nashua	TENNESSEE Nashville <i>First Unitarian Universalist Church</i>	TEXAS El Paso
DELAWARE Wilmington	MARYLAND Annapolis Bethesda <i>Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church</i>	NEW JERSEY Titusville	TEXAS El Paso	MEXICO San Miguel de Allende
FLORIDA Jacksonville <i>Buckman Bridge UU Society</i> Sarasota Vero Beach	MASSACHUSETTS Amherst Braintree	NEW MEXICO Albuquerque <i>Unitarian Universalist Fellowship</i>		

SPECIAL GIFT RECOGNITION

These congregations contributed \$2,000 or more to UUSC's struggle for human rights through ways of giving such as UUSC Sunday collections during services and other youth-led fundraising events.

MARYLAND Bethesda <i>River Road Unitarian Church</i>	MASSACHUSETTS Cohasset Concord	NEW YORK Manhasset
	MINNESOTA Minneapolis <i>First Universalist Church</i>	OREGON Portland <i>First Unitarian Church</i>



MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

These awards recognize congregations that encourage their members to support human rights and social justice by joining the Service Committee with an annual membership gift.

VISION OF JUSTICE BANNER SOCIETY

Honors congregations in which 50-99 percent of the membership are UUSC members

ARIZONA

Prescott
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

ARKANSAS

Jonesboro

CALIFORNIA

Whittier

CONNECTICUT

New Haven

FLORIDA

Cocoa
Vero Beach

MASSACHUSETTS

Weymouth

NEW YORK

Rochester
First Universalist Church

NORTH CAROLINA

Morehead City

NORTH DAKOTA

Bismarck

TEXAS

Abilene
Austin
UU Fellowship
Longview

WASHINGTON

Bellingham
Marysville

CREATING JUSTICE BANNER SOCIETY

Honors congregations in which 25-49 percent of the membership are UUSC members

ALASKA

Fairbanks
Juneau

ARIZONA

Glendale
Green Valley
Surprise
Tucson
UU Congregation of NW Tucson

ARKANSAS

Hot Springs Village

CALIFORNIA

Auburn
Bakersfield
Chico
Fullerton
Grass Valley
La Crescenta
Laguna Beach
Napa
Rancho Palos Verdes
San Rafael
Santa Rosa
Sunnyvale
Visalia
Vista

COLORADO

Pueblo

CONNECTICUT

Brooklyn
Madison
Meriden
New London
Stratford
Woodbury

FLORIDA

Lakeland
Port Charlotte
Sarasota
Tampa

GEORGIA

Atlanta
Northwest UU Congregation
St. Simons Island

IDAHO

Pocatello
Twin Falls

ILLINOIS

Alton
De Kalb

INDIANA

Danville

IOWA

Cedar Falls
Cedar Rapids
Mason City

MAINE

Brunswick
Castine
Edgecomb
Kennebunk
Portland

The First Parish in Portland
Allen Avenue UU Church

Waterville

MARYLAND

Camp Springs
Columbia
Cumberland

MASSACHUSETTS

Athol
Braintree
Fitchburg
Hanover
Littleton
Medfield
Newburyport
West Roxbury

MICHIGAN

Farmington Hills
Houghton
Muskegon

MINNESOTA

Fridley
Mahtomedi
St. Cloud

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Andover
Chocorua
Durham
Peterborough

NEW JERSEY

Newton
Paramus

NEW MEXICO

Rio Rancho
Silver City

NEW YORK

Hollis Queens
Jamestown
Kingston
Middletown
Muttontown
Niagara Falls
Plattsburgh

NORTH CAROLINA

Brevard

OHIO

Berea
Delaware
Lima
Oberlin
Wooster

OKLAHOMA

Lawton

OREGON

Portland
Wyeast UU Congregation
Roseburg
West Linn

PENNSYLVANIA

Athens
Erie

SOUTH CAROLINA

Hilton Head Island

TEXAS

Midland
New Braunfels
San Marcos
Tyler
Victoria

VIRGINIA

Lynchburg

WASHINGTON

Blaine
Des Moines
Friday Harbor

WISCONSIN

Kenosha
La Crosse

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The members of these congregations contributed more than \$2,000 to UUSC's work for justice.

ARIZONA

Tucson
UU Congregation of NW Tucson
California
San Diego
First Unitarian
Universalist Church
Solana Beach
Sunnyvale

CONNECTICUT

New London
Westport

FLORIDA

Sarasota
Vero Beach

MASSACHUSETTS

Lexington
First Parish
Littleton
Newburyport

MINNESOTA

Mahtomedi

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Nashua
Portsmouth

NEW YORK

Manhasset

OHIO

Columbus

OREGON

Corvallis

WISCONSIN

Appleton
Madison
First Unitarian Society
Milwaukee
First Unitarian Society



UUSC ANNOUNCES SEARCH FOR NEW PRESIDENT

The UUSC Board of Trustees' Search Committee is seeking qualified and gifted candidates to apply for the position of President which is anticipated to be filled later this year. We seek a leader with strong interpersonal skills, a commitment to social justice and human rights, and an ability to energize others.

To learn more about the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and its work both here in the United States and abroad, please visit the UUSC Web site at www.uusc.org.

If interested in this position, please forward your resume or inquiry to:

Maxene Johnston, President
Johnston and Company
ATTN: UUSC
6167 Bristol Pkwy., Ste. 140
Culver City, CA 90230
tel: 310 410-3905
fax: 310 410-3906
e-mail: johnstonco@earthlink.net
www.uusc.org

Board welcomes Nancy Moore as interim executive director

(continued from page 2)

"We believe that Nancy will bring creative leadership skills to her new position. We welcome Nancy and look forward to working with her during this important transition period."

Ms. Moore fills the position formerly held by Valora Washington, who resigned effective June 30, 2002. Under a change in bylaws approved by the UUSC membership in June, the permanent executive director position is now called president.

Renewing our commitment

Ms. Moore said she is particularly excited to be joining the Service Committee during this period of transition. "This is an opportunity for both the board and the staff to renew our commitment to the social justice values that inform all of our work, and to rededicate ourselves with even more passion to our mission of advancing human rights at home and around the world."

In addition to her professional background, Ms. Moore has participated in many volunteer activities in the communities in which she has lived. Most recently, she served on the board of directors of the "Friday Night Supper Program" at the Arlington Street (Unitarian Universalist) Church in Boston. She has been a member of the church for three years.

Ms. Moore is a graduate of Northeastern University in Boston with a bachelor's degree in health care management and received a master's degree from the university's Executive MBA Program.

Transition period proceeds smoothly

Barbara Cheatham, a member of the Board of Trustees, said that with the arrival of Nancy Moore as interim executive director, the board has now turned its full attention to the search for a new president

with the hope of announcing an appointment by early summer. "In the meantime," she said, "the Service Committee is pursuing its mission with extraordinary resilience and spirit."

"Times of transition are said to be difficult because change is seldom easy, but the transition that the Service Committee experienced in preparation for Nancy Moore's arrival was remarkable and a source of pride.

"To assure that the work of the Service Committee would continue unabated in the absence of an executive director, the staff pulled together, shouldered additional responsibilities, and found new ways to work as a team. At the same time, board members with organizational experience volunteered countless hours of assistance to the staff," said Ms. Cheatham.

Guatemala: Human rights defenders suffer setbacks

(continued from page 3)

Catholic Bishop Juan Gerardi. Bishop Gerardi was murdered in 1998 after presiding over the Commission for Historical Clarification's report documenting the human rights violations over the course of the 36-year war. Sending the decision back to the lower court essentially means another uphill battle for human rights defenders. They will now have to try the case again, risking that witnesses, judges, and lawyers on the case will be murdered or intimidated.

For the indigenous women

who cope on a daily basis with human rights violations in their own communities, these court decisions seem removed from their day-to-day experiences. One indigenous woman participated in a workshop by ASICER months ago in which she learned for the first time about the peace accords. She has since joined the team of trainers in order to pass on the knowledge of women's rights, indigenous rights and the peace process that she has learned. "I was told I'm a dangerous woman [for demand-

ing my rights]," she explained.

For her and the women she works with, learning about their rights and articulating their concerns and demands in their communities through working with ASICER is the first step towards a real peace for the indigenous communities of Guatemala, but it comes with personal sacrifice and risk.

Allison Kent recently returned from a trip to Guatemala where she met with UUSC partners and other humanitarian activists.

UUs United grantees for advocacy to reduce poverty will support projects conducted by the following:

- Unitarian Church of Jamestown, N.Y.
- First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, Wis.
- UU Congregation of Montclair, N.J., and New Jersey Unitarian Universalist Promise the Children network.
- Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Redwood City, Calif.
- Rainier Valley UU Congregation in Seattle, Wash.
- Promise Massachusetts Children, Inc.
- UU Society in Stamford, Conn.
- UU Congregation of Santa Fe, N.M.

Congregations awarded grants for UUs United projects

UUSC launched UUs United for Social Justice in 2001 to help congregations make a difference in their local community. By participating in UUs United, congregations can investigate the level of poverty within their own community. The program challenges them to develop tangible plans to combat it.

To a great extent, poverty in the U. S. remains a hidden affliction. To help advocates take action to reduce poverty,

UUSC created a set of social justice action guides with support from the UU Veatch Program. Each one offers basic information about the subject (housing and homelessness, hunger, welfare, children and teens living with poverty and the working poor), guidance for a community assessment and help designing a plan of action. Each guide also includes information resources, a suggested worship service and a religious education piece

for children. A facilitator's manual is also available to help prepare four two-hour sessions for learning, dialogue and developing a plan of action.

For more information contact Jackie Ladd at 800 388-2930, ext. 218, or e-mail uusumited@uusc.org. You may download the facilitator's manual and the first four volumes from our Web site, www.uusc.org.

Take action against a military strike on Iraq



Anti-war protests are mounting across the country, such as this recent demonstration in San Francisco.

Based on the seven Unitarian Universalist principles, UUs and UUSC have a moral obligation to defend social justice and human rights around the world. That is why the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is speaking out against a military attack on Iraq which would set a new and

dangerous precedent in place of the current deterrence standard. For more information on this issue and to learn what you can do to advocate for nonviolent alternatives to a military approach, please see our Web site at: www.uusc.org.

Help us make history

UUSC has a long history of defending human rights, helping threatened populations find safety and building a more civil, just world. That history has been made possible by the dedicated generosity and informed advocacy of our membership. Won't you help us make history?



**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
SERVICE COMMITTEE**

- \$60 Matching membership
- \$25 Membership
- \$10 Student/Senior membership

Unrestricted donations to UUSC over \$60 are matched by the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock, in Manhasset, New York.

Name: _____

Street: _____

City, State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Send to: UUSC, 130 Prospect Street, Cambridge, MA 02139

New workcamp set for Arizona/Mexico border

UUSC has teamed with BorderLinks, an Arizona-based nonprofit organization, to offer a new workcamp experience along the Arizona/Mexico border. This workcamp will be held from May 1-4. Through workshops, service work and local trips, volunteers will gain an understanding of the unique issues faced by those who live along the border. Specific topics include discrimination issues, immigration, and civil rights.

The UUSC/BorderLinks trip costs \$400 per person. Those who are interested parties may download an application on the BorderLinks Web site, www.borderlinks.org/bl/pdffiles/registration/orientation.pdf. Please submit

application and payment directly to UUSC, Just Works, 130 Prospect Street, Cambridge, MA 02139.

Join us for this exciting service and learning experience. For additional information, contact: Kelli Larsen, by calling 617 868-6600 or e-mailing justworks@uusc.org.

Southern California Unit event brings together human rights activists worldwide

The UUSC-affiliated Southern California Unit hosted its 18th annual Latin America Encuentro on Saturday, Oct. 12, 2002. Over the years, this event has brought attention to the current realities and needs of people in Latin America, and this year's event was no different.

UUSC program associate Allison Kent, who recently

returned from a trip to Mexico and Guatemala, shared her experiences visiting many UUSC partners in that region. Ms. Kent discussed the challenges women face in becoming part of the local political establishment and how UUSC Guatemalan partner Pro Mujer Villa Nueva works to surmount domestic violence issues in order to enable women to participate in civil society.

Encuentro participants were addressed by Ninth Montenegro, a Guatemalan senator and human rights activist. Although the Guatemalan civil war ended in 1996 with the signing of peace accords, Mr. Montenegro indicated there is still much work to be done in that country. "There is no culture of partici-

pation," he stated. "Frankly, the population is very tired, beaten down, as a result of being in a war of 36 years."

While the events of the Encuentro focus primarily on Latin America, the Southern California Unit took advantage of a visiting UUSC program partner from the Congo. Immaculée Birhaheka, founder and director of Promotion and Support for Women's Initiatives (PAIF), discussed the issues of her country divided by war. "The women are raped; they don't sleep in their houses; the children are taken," said Ms. Birhaheka. "They don't go to schools. We ask for your assistance."

Become a UUSC media advocate

Have you ever written a letter to the editor about an issue in the news that you feel strongly about? Did you know that letters to the editor and op eds in your local newspaper are important ways to influence public opinion in your community and to get the attention of your elected policy-makers?

UUSC frequently uses the media to promote our human rights programs and policies. But the success of these efforts can be multiplied with the help of volunteers who join us in this exciting advocacy opportunity.

If you become a UUSC media volunteer, you will join a network of activists who

want to help spread our message to as broad an audience as possible. From time to time, UUSC will send you sample letters or op eds that you can use or edit to provide a local angle. The focus of the letter or op ed ordinarily will be an issue that is one of our program or policy priorities and that is

currently making news around the country. The Service Committee will provide suggestions on how to get your article placed in a newspaper.

If you are interested in becoming a media volunteer or would like more information, contact Dick Campbell at 800 388-3920, ext. 230, or by e-mail at dcampbell@uusc.org.



In memoriam:

Kevin McNamara, social activist

Kevin McNamara, a passionate and dedicated activist in support of social justice causes, died Jan. 11, 2003 at his home in Ocean Grove, N. J. He was 42.

From 1996 through the spring of 2000, Mr. McNamara was a driving force in UUSC's workcamp program. He worked closely with the Service Committee to plan and develop workcamps with

the Lakota at Native American reservations in South Dakota, and for four years was the first and only on-site director of these workcamps. He also served as director for a church rebuilding workcamp in South Carolina, and was a volunteer at a similar workcamp in Alabama.

He also was active in UUSC's Promise the Children program of advocating for the

rights of children in New Jersey and across the country.

In 1998, Mr. McNamara was honored with the Service Committee's Social Action Leadership Award for his tireless efforts in guiding, educating and inspiring hundreds of volunteers of all ages who participated in our workcamp program under his tutelage.

UUSC's newly redesigned Web site includes exciting new features

We've completely redesigned our Web site, www.uusc.org, adding new features, better navigability, and an entirely new "look and feel." Here are some of the highlights:



Legislative Action Center

Now, when an issue arises that we need your help with, you can add your voice much more quickly and easily. For each action alert we post, you can go to the Legislative Action Center, find your legislator(s) by typing in your Zip code, and write your message in the designated space. You can then choose delivery via e-mail or fax, click "send" and your message will be on its way. Visit www.uusc.org and click on "Legislative Action Center."

The UUSC Café

Now you can sign on and chat in real time with other UUSC and human rights supporters. There are rooms for general discussions, international human rights issues and U.S. human rights issues. Visit www.uusc.org/info/cafe.html.

Resources and downloads sections

We have added sections for downloadable publications, reports and information, a new "Links" page and more. Visit www.uusc.org/info/resources.html.

There are many more enhancements already on the site or coming soon. Please visit often, and explore!

staffNOTES

Nadya Khalife was recently promoted to associate for programs. She will focus on UUSC partners in Africa, as well as participate in building a program specifically devoted to defending children's rights. Ms. Khalife previously served UUSC as the administrative assistant in the programs department.

Rachel Binderman is the new associate for member development, coordinating and supporting UUSC's volunteer network and congregational outreach. "The UUSC National Volunteer Network is UUSC's lifeline to each congregation in the United States, and so to UUs everywhere. The vital support we gain

largely through UUs and UU congregations comes through the work of each volunteer," said Ms. Binderman.

A lifelong UU, Ms. Binderman previously served as the administrative assistant in the institutional advancement department.

Departures

Lauralyn Smith has resigned as associate for member development but will continue to be involved in UUSC's work as the regional coordinator for the Ballou Channing district in southeast Massachusetts.

Jenna Townsend, administrative assistant in the executive department, has resigned to pursue other opportunities.

In memoriam:

Nick Cardell, former UUSC board member

Rev. Nicholas "Nick" Cardell, a former member of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's board of directors and a long-time social justice activist, died Oct. 7, 2002 at his home in Syracuse, N.Y. He was 77.

Rev. Cardell served as minister of the May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society in Syracuse for 21 years until

he retired in 1995. He previously was minister of UU churches in Albany, N.Y., and Plainfield, N.J.

He was a member of UUSC's board from October 1995 through May 1996. He also was a national co-chair/northeast of the Service Committee's Volunteer Network.

A dedicated social activist, he was a member of the Central New York School of the America Abolitionists, and participated several times in demonstrations at the School of the Americas in Columbus, Ga., calling for the closing of the infamous U.S. training school for Latin American soldiers. In 1998, he and more

than 20 other protestors were arrested and spent several days in jail for their part in the demonstrations.

Rev. Cardell was an Army Airborne veteran of World War II. He was a prisoner of war, captured during the Battle of the Bulge, and later escaped.

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SERVICE COMMITTEE NEWS — WINTER 2002 - 2003

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Unitarian Universalist Service Committee Mission Statement
 Grounded in Unitarian Universalist principles that affirm the worth, dignity and human rights of every person, and the interdependence of all life, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is a voluntary, nonsectarian organization working to advance justice throughout the world.

WE WELCOME LETTERS

The *Service Committee News* 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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Afghan women benefit from UUSC humanitarian aid

Reports from the field

An outpouring of generosity from UUSC members and supporters enabled UUSC to select several organizations in Afghanistan to receive humanitarian aid to benefit women and children. These are reports from just two organizations supported by UUSC.



Dr. Waheeda Mani Tehseen, the project director for the Children's Fund, personally delivered relief supplies to Afghan refugee camps along the Pakistani border. With support from UUSC, the Children's Fund provided blankets, rice, flour, cooking oil and basic medicines to thousands of refugees. "Survival is very difficult," reported Dr. Tehseen of the refugee camps. "We must alleviate the poverty and give them an education. Education is the most important way to bring them some humanity."



UUSC partner, the Afghan Women's Education Center (AWEC), provided leadership training, skills development and computer training for women in Afghanistan. According to a recent report from AWEC, "The women of Afghanistan have suffered and faced the worst misery. Meanwhile, there have been some bold women who struggled to get ahead. The nongovernmental organization (NGO) capacity building training is quite significant. Supporting such women NGOs will be excellent enough in enhancement of their tasks. Women can play a unique role in the reconstruction of Afghanistan."



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