



Service Committee

# NEWS

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SERVICE COMMITTEE

SPRING/SUMMER 2004



*Pictured above: UUSC board chair Rick Van Dyke congratulates Samuel Perryman, winner of the 2003 Youth Activist Award, presented at General Assembly 2003.*

## WE'VE GOT JUST THE TICKET FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY!

Join UUSC for a full slate of activities at this year's General Assembly in Long Beach, Calif. Learn about our latest work to protect and promote human rights and become involved in our newest initiative, Defending Democracy.

*For more, turn to page 7.*



## A call to action

The 2000 presidential elections illustrated for all Americans just how the right to vote is fundamental in upholding the larger framework of human rights. Why elections? The answer is simple: without popular representation in government, the dream of global human rights is unlikely to become a reality.

"Voting is where democracy begins," says Charlie Clements, president and CEO of UUSC. "Human rights must have a strong, effective voice if they are going to have any meaning in this century. And that voice is found in engaged, activist citizenship."

The importance of voting and of participatory government is enshrined not just in the U.S. Constitution but also in international law. The most significant modern human rights documents recognize the crucial importance of voting, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its partner document, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

**Defending the right to vote**  
This crucial link between social justice and the right to vote inspired UUSC to launch Defending Democracy, an

election-year initiative aimed at raising awareness about the power of voting and combating the apathy that kept just under half of the voting age population at home during the 2000 presidential election. This program will help register voters, empower youth and young adults to vote, and assist congregations and communities to educate themselves and others about voting rights and crucial election-year issues.

As a human rights and social justice organization in the UU tradition, UUSC is uniquely positioned to help

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## The nation's future is in your hands

*The bottom line on Nov. 2 is that if you do not vote, then you are leaving the future of this country, and perhaps your own future, in someone else's hands.*

There are many ways to defend democracy in the United States. UUSC President Charlie Clements joined UUSC staff members Kelli Larsen (c) and Shari Yeaton (r) at a march in support of labor rights on International Human Rights Day in December.



Forty years ago this summer, the eyes of this nation were riveted on Mississippi where racist sheriffs arrested more than a thousand innocent people, white supremacists beat hundreds, and known – but unindictable – thugs murdered a half dozen of the determined students who were courageously registering voters as part of Freedom Summer.

In three hot and dangerous months of 1964, more than 37 African-American churches and more than 30 African-American homes were burned or dynamited – collateral damage in a one-sided civil war fought over the premise of whether people with black skin would be allowed to vote.

This summer, UUSC will honor their example by issuing a call for UU youth and young adults to join another civil rights journey — to Atlanta, Montgomery, Selma and Birmingham. Participants on this journey will encounter not only the people and stories of that turbulent era but the present realities of racial relations.

The Freedom Summer Workcamp will conclude with training exercises, so that the participants will be prepared to do something about voter registration, get-out-the-vote, issues education, and poll monitoring when they return to their own communities or campuses.

We also invite youth and young adults to two election-related workcamps in Boston and New York City during the Democratic and Republican presidential conventions. We want to use the energy and tension around those events to prepare a new generation of electoral activists.

### Join us to defend democracy

UUSC's Defending Democracy campaign embraces these and other efforts that target young adults and we want you to join us. The Unitarian Universalist Association is embarking on a similar effort called Faithful Democracy. UUSC and the UUA are working hand-in-hand.

The presidential election in Florida was won by 527 votes in 2000. In Hillsborough County alone, there are an estimated 45,000 unregistered African-American voters. More people than that under the age of 30 did not bother to vote in Hillsborough County in that same election. That is why we are working with a cluster of churches in that area as well as UU congregations throughout Florida to take up this challenge.

We will sponsor daylong electoral forums in any state where clusters of UU churches are willing to come together. In the spirit of Faithful Democracy, we encourage them to reach out to the many other denominations that are participating in this non-partisan national campaign.

We will make documentary films like “Unconstitutional: Civil liberties after 9/11” by award-winning filmmaker Robert Greenwald available to any group of activists. However, we offer them with a warning: these films are not recommended for anyone with high blood pressure. We encourage you to explore the theme of civil liberties and the USA Patriot Act with Robert Greenwald at General Assembly, where the UUA and UUSC will premiere “Unconstitutional.”

### Exercising your rights

In that tragic summer of 1964, Martin Luther King, Jr., traveled to Philadelphia, Miss., where three civil rights workers trying to find African Americans willing to register had been arrested and then abducted from the jail. King told a crowd there that he had no doubt that the three missing civil rights workers had been murdered. He then said,

*“We've got to say to those that oppose us with violence that you can't stop us by bombing a church. You can't stop us by shooting at us. You can't stop us by brutalizing us, because we're going to keep on keeping on until we are free.”*

Are we doing a disservice to Martin Luther King, Jr., and to those who risked or sacrificed their lives 40 years ago, by letting apathy, cynicism or burn-out stop us from exercising the right to vote, which they found so precious?

The bottom line on Nov. 2 is that if you do not vote, then you are leaving the future of this country, and perhaps your own future, in someone else's hands.

*Charlie Clements*

# We break for social justice

## Young activists spend spring break registering voters in Florida

It is traditional to spend spring break in Florida. But how many young people give up their time at the beach to learn about voter registration and get-out-the-vote campaigns?

With the memory of how the outcome of the 2000 presidential election was decided in Florida still fresh, the Sunshine State seemed the perfect place for young activists – interested in learning how to make a difference during this crucial election year – to spend their spring break.

For a week in March, eight Unitarian Universalist youth and young adults, and UUSC staff joined nearly 100 others in Orlando, Fla., to learn about and participate in electoral activism. They joined Project Democracy, a national initiative to increase voter participation – especially among young adults.

UUSC is creating opportunities through our Defending Democracy initiatives for our members and supporters to register, educate, motivate and mobilize voters across the nation. “The Service Committee is committed to making sure that U.S. voters – especially youth and young adults – are educated and participate in the upcoming election process,” says Charlie Clements, UUSC president.

### Inspiration and participation

Throughout the week, the group heard many inspiring speakers, including Maria Elena Durazo, executive director of the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride, and Lois Gibbs, an activist who gained fame during the disastrous Love Canal environmental situation in Buffalo, N.Y. Additionally, they heard from knowledgeable speakers on topics specifically focused on assisting young people in

implementing successful voter registration campaigns.

Energized by these speakers, the participants took to the streets of Orlando to do door-to-door canvassing to register voters. The first day was the most important as it was Florida’s election day. The team worked for hours to get out the vote for the presidential and mayoral primary races.

### Joining forces for democracy

Two dynamic young Floridians, Katie Culbert and Cadell Hornbuckle, joined UUSC for this experience in Orlando. Excited and inspired by the training, they plan to coordinate with Unitarian Universalist and other groups in Florida to register voters and have an impact on the 2004 election.

“America is not a democracy as long as her people are not voting; it is my religious responsibility to do what I can to make sure that all people

have an opportunity to vote,” said Katie Culbert, of Tampa, Fla.

Cadell Hornbuckle, 16, of Vero Beach, Fla., said that she came to Orlando to learn how she could “empower disenfranchised voters in order to have a government that is representative of its people.”

Ms. Hornbuckle teamed up with Anna Turkle, 16, of Groton, Mass., to register voters. They were very effective in their voter registration efforts even though neither of them will be old enough to vote this year. Their work in Orlando proves that young people can and will play important roles in empowering voters this year.

*For more about Defending Democracy, e-mail [democracy@uusuc.org](mailto:democracy@uusuc.org) or call 800.388.3920.*

by Kelli Larsen,  
Program Assistant

## What’s your profile, David Cohen? A one-year update

*David Cohen of Cambridge, Mass., participated in the first What’s Your Profile? workshop in 2003. He was one of 16 teens who worked together on this UUSC program to learn about the issue of racism, promoting racial understanding, and ways to document and explore the effects of racism on our society. Since that workshop, UUSC has conducted other What’s Your Profile? workshops, bringing together Unitarian Universalist youth with youth from community-based organizations.*

*We followed up with David one year after the workshop to see how his participation in What’s Your Profile? changed his perspective on race and racism in his community.*

Racism is something that affects everyone. Racism really started to hit home for me in elementary school when I started to notice that some parents acted differently when I would want to play with their kids.

I see racial profiling everywhere, especially since Sept. 11. Now, if you’re someone from the Middle East, you’ve become Osama bin Laden’s brother, sister or cousin. When I walk around in stores, I’ve been followed

because store owners think that I don’t have money to pay for something that I want because I’m black.

What’s Your Profile? changed my life in many different ways. It really helped me understand racism. I found out that it wasn’t something that people woke up and said let’s dislike another race because of their skin color, but that it had to do with generations of negative things being passed down.

Before I participated in What’s Your Profile?, I was just another person that had no idea or understanding of what racial profiling was. I really feel that more people need to be educated about racial profiling and what different things they can learn from it and how it can change their lives. I wanted to say thank you to everyone for giving me a chance to learn something I can benefit from 20 years later.



*David Cohen was one of 16 teens who participated in UUSC’s racial justice program, What’s Your Profile?, in March 2003.*

## DEFENDING DEMOCRACY ISN'T JUST FOR OUR FOUNDING FATHERS

Do you want to make a difference during this critical election year? Together with UUSC, you can learn how to have a lasting effect on your nation's future and have a good time doing it.

UUSC invites youth and young adults ages 16 -24 to combine learning and fun this summer. Join us for a voter-education workcamp that will provide participants with skills to take back to their communities while being inspired, encouraged and motivated by community activists.

- **Defending Democracy workcamps** will coincide with the Democratic (Boston, Jul. 26-30) and Republican (New York City, Aug. 30-Sept. 3) national conventions. Participants will learn about such issues as voter education and registration, and poll monitoring.
- Participants in the **Freedom Summer Workcamp: A Civil Rights Journey** will join UUSC July 6-12 for a civil rights tour of key Southern cities and will meet some of the activists from Freedom Summer in 1964. The workcamp will conclude with electoral-related skills training that will equip participants as Defending Democracy activists.

Don't hate the game, be a player. For more information, contact Nguyen Weeks by calling 800.388.3920 or e-mail [justworks@uusc.org](mailto:justworks@uusc.org).

## A call to action

*(continued from cover)*

make the important connections between voting and human rights come alive for voters.

"Voting is an expression of believing we can make a difference. It moves us one step closer to a world culture that cherishes the human rights of all," says Dr. Clements. "Empowering human rights through active, engaged citizenship: this is the message we must practice at home, if we hope to bring it to the world."

### Spotlight on youth and young adults

The 26<sup>th</sup> Amendment, ratified in 1971, lowered the legal voting age to 18. It was also the most rapidly ratified amendment in U.S. history. Despite the excitement that spurred on the passage of this significant amendment, today fewer than half of 18 to 30 year olds actually turn out to vote, even though they represent a quarter of the voting age population.

Many see this low turnout as a sign of irresponsibility and cynicism. UUSC sees this as an indication that we have not done enough to get youth and young adults active in the democratic process.

UUSC is planning opportunities in the summer months for youth and young adults to engage in dynamic

and effective programs and workcamps involving voting, civil rights and protest. One workcamp is inspired by the courage and sacrifice of Freedom Summer in 1964 when young people worked in Mississippi to register voters. The other two workcamps will take place around the Democratic and Republican national conventions.

Already, UUSC staff, youth and young adults have participated in a weeklong Alternative Spring Break in Florida to prepare them for election-related work. This training, organized by the League of Conservation Voters, was a hands-on opportunity for staff and youth to collaborate in actual voter registration and take it back to their communities.

"If all of the people in our country could vote, our entire society would be different," says Scott McNeill, a participant from Asheboro, N.C. "Getting people registered to vote and educating them on why voting is important is the first step in making America the great nation it could be."

### Something to talk about

Through Defending Democracy, UUSC will also facilitate forums, daylong gatherings designed to bring together several congregations at once.

These community meetings can include inspirational speakers and films as well as workshops on voter registration, issues education, election monitoring and voter rights.

The first of our forums was held in March in Hartford, Conn. Participants discussed the crucial issue of voter apathy. Keynote speaker Miles Rapoport, former Connecticut secretary of state and president of Demos: A Network for Ideas and Action, encouraged participants to get engaged in current election issues, such as voter security and voting rights.

In addition to regional forums, UUSC staff and volunteers are also conducting shorter workshops at district and regional meetings in the coming months, including two workshops at General Assembly this June, where the new Robert Greenwald documentary, "Unconstitutional: Civil liberties after 9/11," will be premiered.

*Make 2004 the year you and your community take a stand for human rights. For more information, call 800.388.3920 or e-mail [democracy@uusc.org](mailto:democracy@uusc.org).*

by Joe Lydon



Volunteers Anna Turkle, center, of Groton, Mass., and Cadell Hornbuckle, of Vero Beach, Fla., sign up an Orlando, Fla., man to register to vote as part of a week-long conference to train young activists in get-out-the-vote campaigning.

*Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives . . . The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government.*

*- Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article 21*

# Championing responsible corporate behavior worldwide

Building on more than a decade of work, UUSC again engaged in shareholder advocacy this year, leveraging our role as an investor to advocate for more responsible corporate behavior on the part of targeted companies. We know that ownership in a company, as a shareholder, is a powerful vehicle for raising social justice issues within the corporate structure and then ensuring the development of policies and practices that promote human rights.

“While we invest the lion’s share of UUSC’s endowment funds in companies that fit a

socially responsible profile, we use limited funds to enable us to influence other corporations to improve their human rights records,” explains UUSC President Charlie Clements. “Reinforcing our program mission, we pressed six of those companies to improve corporate social performance in meeting global human rights and vendor standards developed by the international community.”

Working closely with Dr. Clements and UUSC Trustee James Gunning, UUSC staff filed or cofiled shareholder resolutions to be voted on at

the companies’ 2004 annual meetings. We have also engaged in ongoing discussions with those and other companies on improving corporate social performance standards.

Dr. Clements also thanked businesses which realize that developing policies and practices that are socially responsible brings financial as well as social benefits. He thanked New York-based Dover Corporation, for example, which modified its nondiscrimination policies to include sexual orientation.

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*Ownership in a company, as a shareholder, is a powerful vehicle for raising social justice issues.*

## What one person can do: Guy Quinlan and UUSC

When asked when he became involved in social justice work, longtime UUSC member and former board president Guy Quinlan pauses briefly. Then he begins to talk about working in the civil rights movement in his youth. It seems that Guy cannot remember when he was *not* involved in social action of one type or another. That is why UUSC honored Mr. Quinlan this winter as part of a special event in New York City, where he attends All Souls Unitarian Church with his wife, longtime UUSC supporter Mary-Ella Holst.

### A lifelong commitment

In spring 1960 during his last year of college, Mr. Quinlan worked with a civil rights group that helped organize lunch counter sit-ins in the South, pushing for integration. Later, in his second year at Harvard Law School, he and another student prepared a brief for Dean Erwin Griswold, chair of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, who later became solicitor general under President Nixon. That brief required an

exhaustive study of the history of the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment to see if the proposed litigation could stand up to intense legal scrutiny. It did and later became the basis for Voting Rights Bill of 1965.

By the late 1960s, Mr. Quinlan had joined UUSC. “[UUSC] seemed to be a small organization doing a lot with limited resources,” he explains. “The Service Committee was doing interesting, important work, and I wanted to be part of it.”

As a member and later co-chair of UUSC’s New York Unit, he successfully fought against annual legislation to bring back the death penalty and prepared a handbook for statewide and then national distribution on the rights of senior citizens.

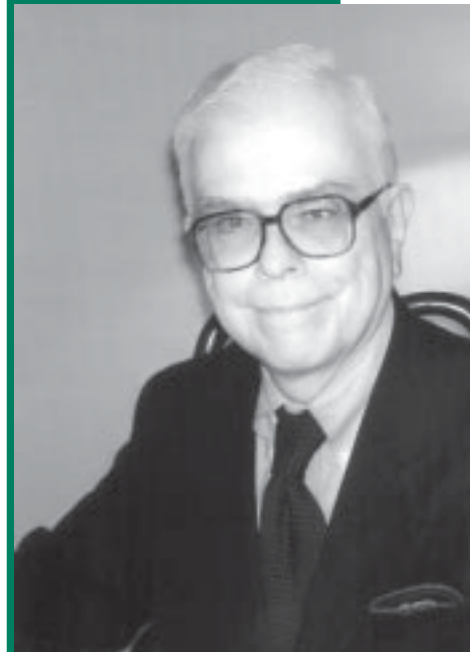
Mr. Quinlan joined the UUSC Board of Directors in 1982 and served as president from 1985 to 1988. He came on the board just as the U.S. and human rights programs underwent a complete reorganization, and he was one of the people who brought in Charlie Clements – now president of UUSC – as director of

human rights education. Mr. Quinlan is also credited with helping to get UUSC on solid fiscal footing during the same time period.

### A passion for justice

Mr. Quinlan is passionate about telling UUSC’s story. “UUSC has done a lot of great things that very few people know about,” he shares. “I believe that UUSC almost single-handedly stopped the U.S. invasion of Nicaragua.” He explains that UUSC hired a consultant, a retired U.S. Army colonel, to go to Central America in the 1980s and thoroughly document the situation. The report, widely circulated among policy-makers, flatly contradicted Reagan administration officials’ claims that Nicaragua was a threat to the United States.

It is for this and so many more reasons that Guy Quinlan says, “I feel very good about the Service Committee. It’s been a privilege to be associated with the staff, volunteers and overseas partners. UUSC gets a lot of social justice out of a very small budget.”



Guy Quinlan (Photo courtesy of Mary-Ella Holst)

# Using our freedom to promote freedom in Burma

*We are all citizens of the world and we must help others who don't have the freedoms that we have to protect themselves or advocate for their own rights.*

*– Katie Redford  
EarthRights  
International*

Human rights activist Katie Redford is co-director of EarthRights International, an organization dedicated to promoting democracy in Burma and addressing the human rights needs of the people of Burma, oppressed for decades by a brutal military junta. This UUSC colleague organization is leading the lawsuit to hold U.S. company Unocal accountable under the Alien Tort Claims Act for human rights abuses committed as part of a project to build a gas pipeline in Burma.

We spoke to Ms. Redford about her views on the future of democracy in Burma and what U.S. citizens can do to help.

## **What is the future of democracy in Burma?**

Though I know it will come eventually, I think we're in for a long process given the current entrenchment and attitude of the Burmese military regime. This is not helped by neighboring countries like Thailand and China that are rapaciously clearing Burma's

forests, mining the gems, and extracting the gas and other natural resources at an alarming rate with no regard for the long-term environmental impacts that such devastation will have on their own environments as well.

## **Why is it important for U.S. citizens to support democracy in Burma?**

Burmese human rights activist Aung San Suu Kyi has asked all the world's people to use our freedom to promote freedom in Burma. As a human rights activist, I believe that everyone has a responsibility to do whatever they can to eliminate human rights abuses wherever they may see them.

We are all citizens of the world and we must help others who don't have the freedoms that we have to protect themselves or advocate for their own rights.

## **What can U.S. citizens do to support democracy in Burma?**

U.S. citizens should contact their members of Congress and ask them to support the

reauthorization of the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act. This is a very powerful sanctions law which cuts off a major source of funding for the military by prohibiting U.S. investment and also prohibiting the United States from importing goods from Burma. Aung San Suu Kyi and the democratically elected government of Burma have specifically supported this act and sanctions as an important tool in bringing democracy to Burma.

U.S. citizens can also get involved in groups like ERI and others who are working hard to bring democracy to Burma.

*Katie Redford and Ka Hsaw Wa of EarthRights International will be speaking at UUSC's forum at General Assembly, "Burma: Holding U.S. corporations accountable." For more information about GA, see page 7 of the Service Committee News or visit our website, [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org).*

# Management Skills 101: A course for Burmese human rights



UUSC Chief Operating Officer Nancy Moore (center) conducted a three-day management training course with students at the EarthRights International School in Thailand.

On the last day of class, Nancy Moore's students surprised her by inviting her to dinner.

But it was not just any dinner. The 15 students from EarthRights International School (ERS), located on the Thai/Burma border, had planned the dinner using the management techniques learned in the three-day training course conducted by Ms. Moore. They created a budget and identified the direct and indirect costs associated with the din-

ner. Then they cooked.

ERS invited Ms. Moore, UUSC's chief operating officer, to be a guest instructor in January on such subjects as time managements and organizational strategic planning. "I taught basic techniques that participants would need when they graduated," says Ms. Moore. "Many of the fundamental skills used in the day to day operation of a non-profit organization need to be applied if the limited resources available are to be used effectively."

In Thailand, ERS students are refugees from Burma who have fled the country op-

pressed by a brutal military junta. It is one of two such schools operated by EarthRights International, a U.S.-based nonprofit and UUSC colleague organization. Like many nongovernmental organizations working on Burma human rights issues, it operates without sanction from the Thai government.

"For the people of Burma, human rights simply do not exist," continues Ms. Moore. "But I saw that a very small number of people, with proper training and support, can and will make progress toward achieving democracy and human rights in Burma."

# UUSC at General Assembly: We've got just the ticket!

*Defending Democracy headlines a full slate of programs*

At General Assembly 2004, you can learn more about how to become involved with our newest initiative, Defending Democracy. You can also learn about human rights work in countries such as Burma and Guatemala – and generally catch up on the exciting developments made possible through your support of the Service Committee.

One of the highlights of GA will be the premiere of “Unconstitutional: Civil liber-

ties after 9/11,” a documentary detailing the current attack on civil liberties in the United States. This screening is cosponsored by UUSC and the UUA's Washington Office for Witness and Advocacy.

We also invite you to stop by the UUSC booth and attend one of our several other workshops and activities. Visit our website, [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org), call 617.868.6600 or e-mail [ga@uusc.org](mailto:ga@uusc.org) for more information.

## ELECTORAL ACTIVISTS WANTED

**Don't hate the game, be a player: Election 2004**

**LBCC, Room 201A**

Sunday, June 27, 2:00 - 3:15 p.m.

**also LBCC, Room 202B**

Monday, June 28,  
10:15 - 11:30 a.m.

How can youth and young adults make their voices heard during this critical presidential election year? Discuss voter registration, electoral activism and getting-out-the-vote campaigns.

## BURMA ON TRIAL

**Burma: Holding U.S. corporations accountable**

**LBCC, Room 102C**

Friday, June 25 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

**also LBCC, Room 102B**

Friday, June 25, 1:30 - 2:45 p.m.

Hear from human rights activists, including Ka Hsaw Wa of EarthRights International, an organization engaged in the struggle to hold U.S. corporations accountable for international human rights abuses in Burma.

## INVESTING IN CHANGE

**Shareholder advocacy:  
Investing in social justice**

**Date, time and location  
to be announced.**

Learn how owning stock in a corporation enables you to demand compliance with human rights standards.

## DEMOCRACY UNDER ATTACK

**UUSC human rights forum:  
Defending Democracy**

**LBCC, room 102B**

Sunday, June 27, 4:45 - 6:00 p.m.

Come and hear some of the most dynamic church-based voter registration and get-out-the-vote strategies. Learn how to reclaim your participatory democracy.

## GENOCIDE IN GUATEMALA

**“Discovering Dominga”:  
Genocide in Guatemala**

**LBCC, Room 104C**

Sunday, June 27, 8:30 - 9:45 p.m.

Born Dominga Sic Ruiz, Denese Becker returned to Guatemala to find her roots and uncovered a story of genocide. See the documentary that follows her journey and discuss with her how she is helping the people of Guatemala recover their national memory.

## CONSTITUTION UNDER SIEGE

**“Unconstitutional: Civil liberties after 9/11”**

**LBCC, Room 104C**

Friday, June 25, 10:00 p.m.

Join acclaimed filmmaker Robert Greenwald for the world premiere of his new documentary, “Unconstitutional,” a compelling account of the attack on civil liberties in the United States. Cosponsored by the UUA Washington Office for Advocacy.

## FAIR TO THE LAST DROP

**Fair trade and human rights**

**LBCC, Room 101B**

Monday, June 27, 8:30 - 9:45 a.m.

Learn how fair trade is making sure that those who produce goods are paid a living wage. Discover how the partnership between Equal Exchange and UUSC is making fair trade a part of the life of many UU congregations.

## YOU'RE INVITED!

UUSC members attending General Assembly are invited to join us for our annual meeting and volunteer recognition luncheon. Join us for good food, good fellowship, brief business reports and acknowledgment of the recipients of the Social Action Leadership, Mary-Ella Holst Youth Activist, Vision of Justice Sermon awards, and UUSC outstanding volunteers.

This year, the annual meeting will be held at 12:30 p.m. in the Beacon B room of the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Tickets are \$20 and available in advance by calling UUSC at 800.766.5236 or, if space is still available, at the UUSC booth in the exhibit hall.

## JOIN US FOR AN ACTION OF IMMEDIATE WITNESS

At the 2004 General Assembly, UUSC will be seeking an Action of Immediate Witness in support of efforts to hold U.S.-headquartered, multinational corporations accountable for the human rights abuses they aid, abet or commit overseas. This is of particular importance at this time due to the efforts of UUSC's partner organizations to file suit against the California-based company Unocal for its actions in Burma.

For more information, please visit [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org) where updates on this effort will be posted as available. To volunteer to assist at General Assembly, please contact Rachel Binderman at [ga@uusc.org](mailto:ga@uusc.org) or 800.766.5236, ext.307.

# A time to review and refocus

## A message from the chair of the board of trustees



UUSC Board Chair Rick Van Dyke

I will be leaving behind my seat on the board of trustees at the end of June because my time will be up. I can no longer serve as a trustee as I have for the past nearly six years because of term limits. And that is good. It provides an opportunity for new leadership to move in and for me to refocus on a different role in which to do social justice work.

When I was approached to serve as chair during this last year, I was reluctant because of many competing obligations. However, I was drawn to serve because I had a vision about some goals I wanted to achieve. Last June, I knew UUSC would have new staff leadership, and I believed that much could be accomplished with the new appointee.

Sure enough, Charlie Clements was appointed our president and CEO last summer. With his inspiration and the staff and board members' determination, much has been accomplished.

As I look back to last June, we have all come a long way and made much progress. Thanks to the very able groundwork laid by Nancy Moore as interim executive director, the management team and board, we were all ready to welcome Charlie aboard. Just a few of the accomplishments include:

- Completing 80 percent of the plans developed as a result of the January 2003 organizational capacity assessment.
- Completing staff union negotiations and finalizing a three-year contract.
- Recommitment of a very competent board with a covenant and strong drive for UUSC program strength.
- Continuing to strengthen relationship with program partners.
- Nearing the end of the very exciting review and refocus process for UUSC programs.
- Recruiting new and very

- talented board members.
- Leading a delegation to Guatemala to monitor the elections in that country, and scores of other program initiatives.
- Watching Charlie inspire thousands of UUs at congregational meetings across the country.

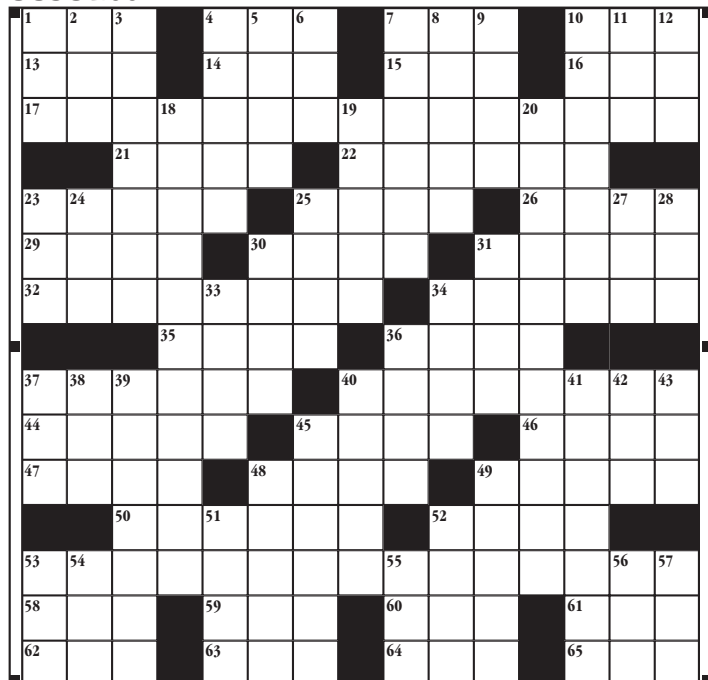
We just could not do this without you, our members and supporters. Your numbers are now 25,000 strong and growing. On behalf of the other trustees who so ably serve, we thank you for your commitment. For me, it has been a wonderful journey.

And, now it is time for me to begin to review and refocus.

With best regards,

Reinhardt Van Dyke  
Chair, UUSC Board of Trustees

### UUSC 2004



—Mary-Ella Holst

#### ACROSS

- Keyboard key.
- See 1 Down.
- Scrooge's oath.
- Mr. Brunner.
- Stolen Diamonds.
- Linkletter or Garfunkel.
- "\_\_\_\_\_ Little Teapot".
- President of UUSC.
- Current of events or water.
- In fact.
- Where seepage collects on a ship.
- Buddy or Max.
- "\_\_\_\_-thon"—an approach to a buffet.
- Record label known for early recordings of jazz.
- Petty officer in USN.
- Dog breed known for herding.
- Nods and winks.
- Cord made from animal intestines.
- Ivan was a terrible example.
- Island of Indonesia.
- War Without \_\_\_\_\_* (Vietnam memoir).
- Articulating sense; lucid.
- Spanish cave.
- Revolutionary Nathan.
- Wolfe—Stout character in mysteries.
- Prefix indicating interior.
- MS \_\_\_\_\_, popular computer program.
- Sussex town with a UU Peace Center.
- French star.
- Grey or McCrea.
- What UUSC asks you to do this year, and every year.
- \_\_\_\_ de France.
- See 1 Down.
- Litigator's grp.
- Recent form of modernism.
- What to call Paul McCartney.
- Possess.
- Course for some recent immigrants to U.S.
- Put on.

#### DOWN

- With 4 Across and 59 Down—A pencil and paper game.
- German exclamation.
- Fab Four.
- Spanish diacritic mark.
- Rose's beau in a popular 1922 drama.
- Miler Sebastian.
- Whalebone whale.
- Toward the stern.
- Web acronym.
- Symbol of Chinese philosophy of Change.
- Formal abbr. for "the Draft".
- \_\_\_\_ Vegas, town that banned gambling in 1910.
- Anthony sought it for you, perhaps.
- Gross.
- What UUSC can NOT do.
- Fen.
- DDE.
- Dutch settler in South Africa.
- Greek character.
- NYC Dance Company.
- Unkind description of Dennis the Menace.
- West African country.
- Annapolis inst.
- Blanchett, who played Galadriel.
- Type of eagle.
- Is there one up your sleeve?
- Merriment.
- Put off again.
- Street show.
- Country music's award-winning Mark.
- Exist.
- \_\_\_\_ Angeles.
- \_\_\_\_ Caulfield, fictional teen-age protagonist.
- Survivor, of a kind.
- Nearby.
- Aware of.
- Campaign issue in 2004.
- Put down, slang.
- Bush or Kerry, e.g.
- West, of Vaudeville and Hollywood fame.
- 17 Across also holds this UUSC title.
- Shakespearean direction.

Solution on page 11



(l-r) Michael Tino of the Unitarian Universalist Association; UUSC Senior Associate for Education and Action Kim McDonald; Maurice Foxx, chair of the Commission on Indian Affairs for Massachusetts; and Annawon Weeden, native programs specialist for the Children's Museum of Boston.

### UUSC sponsors forum on Native American issues

In February, UUSC cosponsored a forum on Native American issues at Tufts University. The forum, "Contemporary Native American Issues in New England," was held on the university's Medford, Mass., campus. It was cosponsored by the Office of Young Adult and Campus Ministry of the Unitarian Universalist Association and Cultural Survival.

Representatives from the Mashpee Wampanoags, the Wagmatcook First Nation Indian Reserve, the Aroostook Band of Micmacs, Narragansetts and the Nipmuc Nation were invited to participate. Panelists discussed what life is like for Native Americans today as well as ways in which audience members could learn more, or assist Native Americans in achieving some of the goals they have set for their communities. "The rights we are trying to preserve are not just for indigenous people," says Annawon Weeden, native programs specialist for the Children's Museum of Boston.

*UUSC is planning a workcamp on Native American issues for summer 2004. For more information, visit our website, [www.uusc.org/info/workcamps.html](http://www.uusc.org/info/workcamps.html) or e-mail [justworks@uusc.org](mailto:justworks@uusc.org).*

### UUSC member survey results

Our thanks to all who responded to the member survey in the fall 2003 issue of the *Service Committee News*. Your valuable responses will help us improve the ways in which we communicate about UUSC's mission and programs.

Overall, the survey responses were positive, with 83 percent of respondents indicating they were satisfied with UUSC. Respondents urged us to work to raise the visibility of UUSC's programs through increased media and congregational outreach.

#### *Respondent characteristics*

- Respondents represented 46 states as well as the District of Columbia.
- The majority of respondents are UUSC members (81 percent) and UU congregation members (68 percent).
- More women (57 percent) than men (35 percent) responded. Five percent did not answer this question.
- Sixty-seven percent of respondents were age 61+. Less than 5 percent were under age 40 and 6 percent did not answer this question.
- All but a small percentage of respondents were white.
- Only 1 percent of respondents indicated that they are not registered to vote.

### Learning about UUSC programs

UUSC general mailings, congregational announcements and fund-raising appeals are the most common ways respondents stay up-to-date about UUSC programs and projects. The top three program aspects that motivate respondents to support UUSC are UUSC's commitment to:

1. Support human rights in partnership with community-based partners.
2. Combat persistent poverty.
3. Combat oppression, especially identity-based discrimination.

Of the programs that UUSC has conducted in recent years, respondents were most interested in programs to support the rights of oppressed racial, ethnic and indigenous communities; international programs; and women's rights. Within these broad program areas, they were most interested in campaigns or projects for:

1. Public policy advocacy to eradicate poverty for U.S. children.
2. Raising women's voices for peace in Central Africa.
3. Public policy advocacy to counter the unintended consequences of welfare reform.

*For complete survey results, call 800.766.5236 or e-mail [scnews@uusc.org](mailto:scnews@uusc.org).*

### Giving the gift of justice has never been easier

What could make a better gift than advancing the cause of human rights? Honoring an individual with a gift to UUSC is a wonderful way of recognizing someone's com-

mitment to the cause of social justice. Memorializing a loved one with a gift to UUSC ensures that their values continue to be at work in the world.

It has never been easier to give such gifts. UUSC's website is now able to accept memorial gifts and donations given to honor another. For more information, or to make a gift, visit [www.uusc.org/info/vsmemorial.html](http://www.uusc.org/info/vsmemorial.html).

### Driving for justice

Sandra Lynch of Arizona has been an active member of UUSC since the 1980s. She has served as a local representative for two different UU congregations. She was first drawn to UUSC because of its social justice work in Central America. "I was proud of the fact that UUSC was working to bring the story of U.S. sponsorship of the terrible Contra war to the U.S. public," says Ms. Lynch.



*Sandra Lynch uniquely shows her commitment to social justice and human rights with a "UUSC" license plate. (Photo courtesy of Sandra Lynch)*

It was at that time that she got her "UUSC" license plate. "I am honored to carry UUSC's name on my car because of its work for justice and human rights throughout the world," she says.

**Join us at  
General Assembly  
2004!**

## Championing corporate responsibility

(continued from page 5)

### Demanding accountability

Filing or cofiling a resolution allows the sponsoring shareholder(s) to raise an issue with management and encourage change at that level. “In a fall meeting with TJX executives, we explained that UUSC’s calls for contracting only with overseas manufacturers that adhere to ILO standards can benefit the bottom line as well as be socially responsible,” recounts Program Associate Mary Lania.

Filing a shareholder resolution also puts an issue before all shareholders in writing

during the proxy voting process and in person before many of the largest and most influential shareholders at the corporation’s annual meeting. Certainly, taking on the responsibility of primary filer on the issue of HIV/AIDS reporting with Merck was intended to continue the momentum begun with company executives and shareholders with the prior year’s filing by UUSC. That resolution was ultimately withdrawn because of the positive steps which the company agreed to take after discussions with UUSC and cofilers.

“Even though HIV medicines can turn AIDS from a death sentence into a chronic disease, less than one percent of the estimated 38 million

people in the developing world who suffer from HIV/AIDS have access to the life-saving medicines,” states UUSC Trustee Gunning, who also serves as treasurer and chair of the Investment Committee.

The shareholder resolution filed by UUSC with Merck calls for increased disclosure on the impact HIV/AIDS has on the company and its responses to the epidemic to date. During negotiations with the company, UUSC recommended that the corporation involve the board of directors in monitoring the HIV/AIDS situation, expand access to medicines and evaluate risks to Merck’s image posed by limiting its responses to the pandemic.

*On April 27, UUSC treasurer James Gunning presented the first-year resolution filed by UUSC and other concerned shareholders at the Merck Annual Meeting. The proxy resolution called for a report on the economic impact the AIDS pandemic will have on the pharmaceutical company and its shareholders. A surprising 13.9 percent of the shareholders voted for the resolution. This is considered a great success for a first year resolution as a first year support level of 3 percent is required by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission for this proxy resolution to be reintroduced next year.*

Protesters gathered outside an ExxonMobil annual stockholder meeting. UUSC was a cofiler in a resolution calling for ExxonMobil to observe standards set by the International Labor Organization. (Photo courtesy of Campaign ExxonMobil.)



## ‘Umbrella giving’ simplifies supporting UUSC and other UU affiliates

Q:  
A:

*Is there a simple way to be generous to UUSC and all the other Unitarian Universalist organizations I love?*

**YES!**

Unitarian Universalists have sometimes felt as if they had divided loyalties when they wanted to support the Service Committee, their local congregation, the Unitarian Universalist Association or other UU affiliates.

Now, UUSC and the UUA have worked together to make possible a simple, creative solution to this situation that we call “umbrella giving.”

### What is an umbrella gift?

Umbrella gifts simplify the process of giving to more than

one UU organization. By making one donation or funding one life-income gift, you can give generously to several UU entities and receive recognition from each organization for your generosity.

### How can I learn more?

The institutional advancement staff of the Service Committee and the stewardship and development staff of the UUA would be glad to help you create a gift to meet your personal and philanthropic goals.

All conversations with either staff group are confidential.

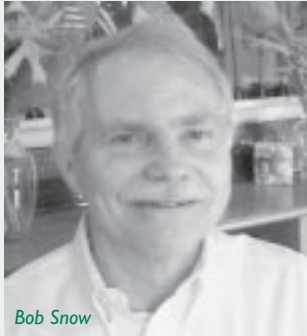
Contact:

### David Riley

UUSC Associate for Development  
800.766.5236, ext. 205  
plannedgiving@uusc.org

### Marcy Bailey-Adams

UUA Director of Charitable Gift and Estate Planning  
888.792.5885  
mbailey@uua.org



Bob Snow

UUSC welcomed Bob Snow as the senior director for institutional advancement. Mr. Snow previously served as vice president of development at the Unitarian Universalist Association for 14 years,

“A small and highly effective organization like UUSC can make a real difference,”

says Mr. Snow. “I am particularly interested in talking with members and supporters about why they support the Service Committee and what future direction they’d like to see us take.”

Mr. Snow first worked at UUSC in the 1960s finding jobs for conscientious objec-

tors during the Vietnam War. He returns to UUSC with an extensive background in program work at such organizations as Oxfam America and the Maryknoll Fathers. He is a member of the Arlington Street Church in Boston.

## Teens learning and working together at Mohawk Valley workcamp

In April, the youth group of the First Church Unitarian of Littleton, Mass., took part in the first UUSC Spring Break workcamp for

teens. During the three day workcamp, the group learned about issues affecting a community of Mohawk people who have

returned to the Mohawk Valley in upstate New York to reestablish the Kanatohareke farm and homes in the area. Participants learned about the history of the Mohawk people and contributed physical labor on the farm, including feeding and cleaning animals, preparing a garden, completing an anti-soil erosion project and erecting a cedar post fence.

If your group is interested in participating in a similar opportunity, contact UUSC by calling 800.388.3920 or e-mail [justworks@uusc.org](mailto:justworks@uusc.org).



Howard Lyons, staff person at the Kanatohareke farm, instructs UUSC workcamper Dan Giota on where to park a tractor.

SOLUTION:

T	A	B		T	A	C		B	A	H		Y	U	L	
I	C	E		I	B	O		A	R	T		I	M	A	
C	H	A	R	L	I	E	C	L	E	M	E	N	T	S	
				T	I	D	E	R	E	A	L	L	Y		
B	I	L	G	E	B	A	E	R	E	A	T	A			
O	K	E	H		B	O	S	N		M	C	N	A	B	
G	E	S	T	U	R	E	S		C	A	T	G	U	T	
				T	S	A	R		B	A	L	I			
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C	U	E	V	A		H	A	L	E		N	E	R	O	
E	N	D	O		W	O	R	D		L	E	W	E	S	
				E	T	O	I	L	E		J	O	E	L	
D	E	F	E	N	D	E	M	O	C	R	A	C	Y		
I	L	E		T	O	E		A	B	A		N	E	O	
S	I	R		O	W	N		E	S	L		D	O	N	

Puzzle on page 8

### SERVICE COMMITTEE NEWS — SPRING / SUMMER 2004

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**UUSC 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.

The *Service Committee News* is a publication of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, a membership organization working to advance justice throughout the world. UUSC members receive the *Service Committee News* three times per year. UUSC is supported by individual members, Unitarian Universalist congregations and private foundations that share our commitment to building a better, more just 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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# UUSC merchandise

Consider a gift from UUSC for the special people in your life. Visit the UUSC store at [www.uusc.org/store](http://www.uusc.org/store) to see our full selection of UUSC merchandise.

Item #	Item Name	Price	Qty	Total
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Additional contribution				
<b>Total</b>				

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Send with this form to: **UUSC Merchandise, 130 Prospect Street, Cambridge, MA 02139-1845**



## UUSC PEWTER LOGO JEWELRY

Display your commitment to social justice. Each piece is crafted in pewter. *\$5.00 each*

3/4" pendant with chain (M03P)  
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 1/2" lapel pin (M26P)



## CHILDREN'S WALL NOTECARDS

Back by popular demand, these cards show an image of the Children's Wall, a mural at UUSC's office. Blank inside. Eight cards and envelopes in each packet. (NC001). *\$8.00 per packet.*



## JUSTICE T-SHIRT

Wear your passion for justice on your sleeve with these new 100% cotton t-shirts. *All sizes and colors: \$10.00 each.*

Adult sizes:  
**Natural with red and gray lettering** Small (JNAS), Medium (JNAM), Large (JNAL) or Extra Large (JNAX)  
**Red with white and black lettering** Small (JRAS), Medium (JRAM), Large (JRAL) or Extra Large (JRAX)

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