



Rights Now

Summer/Fall 2012

uusc.org

The newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee



Women, Labor, and Leadership

Empowering women workers in Central America and beyond

By Ariel Jacobson

Each year, consumers in the United States eat an average of 26 pounds of bananas per person. But do they know who grows, harvests, and packs these bananas? Iris Munguia, for one. Born on a Chiquita banana plantation, Munguia has worked for 33 years at a banana-packing plant in La Lima, Honduras, and as a union member and organizer for 32 years. A year

ago, Munguia was elected general coordinator of a regional banana-union association that oversees 45,000 unionized banana workers across eight Latin American countries. As the first woman to hold this position, she is a shining example of a leader making strides for women workers in the region and around the world.

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

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A message from UUSC's president

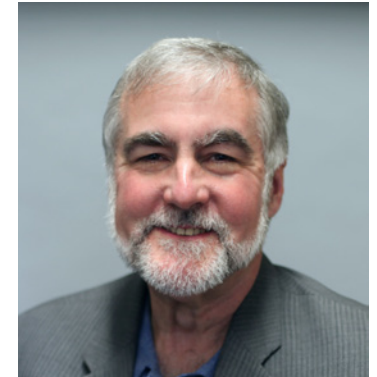
Most of UUSC's programs include an intentional focus on women and women's rights. This is not just a matter of political correctness, or because we are trying to right a historic imbalance, or even because women are disproportionately victims of violence and economic hardship. It is because when women are prevented from realizing their full potential, everybody suffers — poverty skyrockets, disease multiplies, and children languish.

Women make up 40 percent of the global work force. As the World Bank's 2012 *World Development Report* makes clear, it is just plain stupid to erect roadblocks to the optimum productivity of 40 percent of your workers.¹ But that's exactly what gender inequality does: it ensures that a society underutilizes some of its most promising human resources. Quite apart from the moral imperative to affirm "the worth and dignity of every person," the reason to empower women politically and economically is because nothing more readily guarantees abundance and health.

So UUSC seeks out every opportunity we can to partner with women and weigh in on the side of women's economic welfare and political rights. This issue of *Rights Now* gives you plenty of examples of how we do that.

The novelist Alice Walker once said, "The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any." Women have enormous power. UUSC partners with women around the world to be sure they claim it.

Bill Schulz



¹ The World Bank, *World Development Report 2012: Gender Equality and Development* (2011), http://wdronline.worldbank.org/worldbank/a/c.html/world_development_report_2012/abstract/WB.978-0-8213-8810-5.abstract, doi: 10.1596/978-0-8213-8810-5.



A delegation meets with STITCH leaders.

Organizing women workers on banana plantations is no small task. They face low wages, sexual harassment, racial discrimination, and dangerous working conditions. This is no surprise, given the complexities of trade and labor and the notorious history of the United Fruit Company (the present-day Chiquita) in the so-called banana republics. Workers have sought recourse for violations of their rights through unions, but many of those unions have been dominated by men with little space for women's leadership and needs.

In spite of this, women workers have made huge progress. According to Lupita Aguila, executive director of STITCH, a UUSC partner, "*Bananeras*, as they are dearly called,

have achieved victories we can only dream of in the U.S., including clauses in their union contract that allow them to take a paid day off for a mammogram and/or a pap smear, union-wide campaigns with workshops against domestic violence, as well as union-led campaigns against HIV/AIDS with a focus on reproductive justice and accessibility to health care for all women in their communities."

Munguia's longtime membership in STITCH is what prepared her for union leadership. Since it was founded in 1994, STITCH has been at the forefront of supporting women from labor organizations in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Most importantly, STITCH trains women to be leaders

and to support fellow women workers in labor organizing.

STITCH believes that women-led spaces to share experiences and strategies are essential to improving labor conditions in Central America. That is why since 2006 UUSC has supported STITCH leaders, including Munguia, in creating and implementing the *Women, Labor, and Leadership* curriculum. Drawing on the experiences of STITCH members, the program trains thousands of women workers throughout Central America on topics such as feminism, globalization, and unionism.

Women in the banana industry are not alone in the challenges they face. Many food industries in the United States, including restaurants, meatpacking, and agriculture, rely

heavily on the low-wage labor of immigrants and people of color. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, five of the eight lowest-paying jobs in the United States are in the food system. Many of those workers do not receive health insurance or paid sick days and suffer high rates of occupational illness and injury.

In poultry processing, at least half of the 250,000 workers in major U.S. chicken plants are Latino and more than half are women. The Northwest Arkansas Workers' Justice Center, a UUSC partner, is working to organize women poultry workers to confront issues such as a lack of bathroom breaks and the dangerously high speed of the processing line.

The Restaurant Opportunities Centers (ROC) United, another UUSC partner, has conducted research on the restaurant industry, which has a unionization rate of less than 1 percent. ROC-United found that women restaurant workers face systematic discrimination and five times more harassment than the general female workforce. Moreover, since restaurant lobbyists have kept the federal minimum wage for tipped workers at just \$2.13 per hour for more than 20 years, many women restaurant workers live in poverty.

As workers in the United States and overseas advocate for improved conditions amidst an escalating attack on collective bargaining and in industries with little union

presence, consumers must call for a more just food system for all. And it's important to recognize the particular issues that women face and the power they hold. In Munguia's words, "As a result of my work, I have learned to value myself as a woman and how analytical, positive, creative, and committed women can be. Women have always been involved in the battle to secure our rights, and yet we have gone unnoticed in history." UUSC is working with partners and supporters to bolster those efforts — and make sure they're noticed, especially in the food sector.

Ariel Jacobson is a senior associate in UUSC's Economic Justice Program.

Choose Compassionate Consumption

- **Pledge** to make consumer choices based on your values at uusc.org/cc.
- **Watch** STITCH's 18-minute documentary *Pushing Back: Women Workers Speak Out on Trade* at uusc.org/womenworkers.
- **Read** ROC-United's report *Tipped Over the Edge: Gender Inequity in the Restaurant Industry* at uusc.org/rocreport, and check out the forthcoming book *Behind the Kitchen Door*, by ROC's cofounder, at uusc.org/kitchendoor.
- **Take action** to support restaurant workers by downloading ROC-United's *National Diners' Guide* and using it when you dine out: uusc.org/dinersguide.

Innovative Vision, Practical Impact Rose Anne Auguste bolsters health in Haiti

By Jessica L. Atcheson



Rose Anne Auguste, founder and director of APROSIFA

When you ask Martha Thompson, manager of UUSC's Rights in Humanitarian Crises Program, what makes Rose Anne Auguste's work unique, she responds: "How many mother-child health clinics have art studios attached to them?" Such innovation is a hallmark of Auguste's work at the Association for the Promotion of Integral Family Healthcare (APROSIFA), a grassroots organization and UUSC partner in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

What good can art do for more than 100 youth in the impoverished neighborhood of Carrefour Feuilles? Through the creation of art, young people are processing the trauma they've experienced, learning about issues like climate change and gender equality, putting recycled materials to good use, and even generating income to support themselves by selling

their work. And that's not all. As Thompson explains, "The work that's being done through this art workshop is really key, because the levels of trafficking and the cracks that young kids can fall into in Haiti are gaping wide. [Auguste's] programs enable so many kids to change the way they see themselves — and it has protected them." And some have found a calling; several of the young artists recently had their work featured in a large-scale exhibit at Haiti's National Gallery.

As the founder, director, and visionary behind APROSIFA's many health initiatives, Auguste has a particular talent for developing programs that provide practical solutions to several problems at once — programs that UUSC is proud to help APROSIFA make a reality. "Rose Anne is really responding creatively

to the needs that she sees emerging in the community,” says Wendy Flick, manager of UUSC’s Haiti program.

One APROSIFA program addresses malnourishment in Carrefour Feuilles. While getting kids food that will keep them healthy is important, Auguste says, “We don’t just feed malnourished kids at this clinic; we have to increase the ability of the mothers to earn enough to feed their children.” UUSC has worked with Auguste on a nutrition program that rehabilitates malnourished kids over a period of up to six weeks while also providing mothers with nutrition education. At the same time, the program partners with Konbit Fam Saj, another local grassroots organization, to provide

the women with food-preparation training, a kitchen to work in, and carts to sell their food for stable income.

One of the reasons that Auguste is so effective in her work is that she has been an integral part of the community that she is serving for the past 19 years. Thompson and Flick were introduced to Auguste after the earthquake, only to discover that Auguste already had experience with UUSC. Back in the ‘90s, UUSC helped fund the translation of *Where There Is No Doctor* into Haitian Creole. The book has been vital in enabling people to do comprehensive health work in Port-au-Prince and throughout Haiti.

Auguste has surrounded herself



Haitian youth creating art at the APROSIFA clinic.

More Tools for Change

In addition to working with partners on the ground in Haiti, UUSC mobilizes members to push for strong U.S. legislation that will truly support Haiti in its recovery. Through online petitions, organized lobby days with our Haitian partners and returned volunteers, and more, UUSC helps people voice their support for laws like the Assessing Progress in Haiti Act; the Haiti Empowerment, Assistance, and Rebuilding Act; and the Violence against Women and Children in Haiti Resolution.

UUSC is an active member of the Haiti Advocacy Working Group (HAWG), a group of faith-based, human-rights, and development organizations committed to a just recovery in Haiti that meet weekly in Washington, D.C., to develop and carry out advocacy on Capitol Hill and with the administration.

To take action in support of effective legislation on a host of human-rights issues, including Haiti’s recovery, visit uusc.org/actionalerts/all.

with a group of dedicated and passionate people at APROSIFA. “When I met her team for the first time,” Flick reflects, “I found out most of them have been there for the entire 19 years — and that’s even during periods of time when there were no salaries. The way that she has empowered and inspired her team says everything you need to know about her.” Together, they have created sustainable programs that are truly building a better future for families in Haiti.

Having acted as an advisor to Paul Farmer and Partners in Health, Auguste is known transnationally as a leader and defender of women’s health. “Rose Anne has always been a passionate activist,” Thompson shares. “She looks at everything from a rights perspective, and she recognizes that people’s health situations are rooted in inequality and lack of access to water, to jobs, to food.”

This perspective makes her a natural choice for the position of government minister of human rights, poverty, and hunger, to which she was appointed in mid-May. “She’s a practical visionary, so she’s not going to be content with a lot of vague policies about ending hunger,” says Thompson. Auguste’s down-to-earth approach and creativity will set her — and Haiti — up for success in this new position, in the same ways that they have at APROSIFA.

Learn more about APROSIFA in UUSC’s Beyond the Mountain Haiti curriculum at uusc.org/beyondthemountain. Also check out UUSC’s video about the arts and human rights at uusc.org/artsvideo.

Jessica L. Atcheson is UUSC’s writer and editor.

Clear Pathways to Justice

Kathleen McTigue draws on her past to build UUCSJ's future

By Jessica L. Atcheson

The enormity of the world's injustices can seem overwhelming — but it doesn't have to be. As Kathleen McTigue, director of the UU College of Social Justice (UUCSJ), says, "I think the greatest service that we can do for people is creating clear pathways for them to put their values to work." As she takes the helm of UUCSJ, a new joint UUSC-UUA initiative that seeks to increase the capacity of Unitarian Universalists to catalyze justice, McTigue is building a strong, practical vision of justice work informed by UU faith — a potent combination.

McTigue comes to UUCSJ after a quarter century of parish ministry that grew out of her history of social-justice activism in the San Francisco Bay area. "In the course of being a justice activist, I began developing a really acute spiritual hunger," she shares. "I really felt like I needed something beyond the political activism." She ventured to seminary to pursue her personal spiritual quest in community at Starr

King School for the Ministry.

After volunteering with Witness for Peace in Nicaragua, McTigue discovered the deep connections she had been looking for. "Witness for Peace was a faith-based organization, and by working with them I really got a sense of the power of bringing the faith commitment together with the justice work," McTigue says. "And that's what I've tried to do throughout my 25 years of parish ministry."

UUCSJ is fueled by that power of faith to inform justice work and vice versa. McTigue emphasizes how this is key in making the work of social justice sustainable: "It grounds people in community, helps us remember that we are connected to something vaster than our own small efforts, and offers a greater possibility of keeping us humble and keeping things in perspective."

In underscoring these ideas, McTigue points to the long history of women struggling for rights in

UUCSJ offers current leaders and future activists of any age a broad and effective portfolio of service-learning and justice-education experiences. Visit uucsj.org for more information, including details of upcoming trips to Haiti, New Orleans, India, Nicaragua, and more. Want to see what service learning looks like? Watch the video at uucsj.org to find out!



Kathleen McTigue with staff of the UU College of Social Justice at General Assembly.

the United States. She notes that even within a few generations of women having the right to vote, that accomplishment is already taken for granted. "What we forget," McTigue says, "is there were literally generations of women who fought for suffrage, who died, before suffrage was accomplished — but whose effort made it happen."

McTigue sees an opportunity to use faith to tap into the larger picture of justice and equality and to buoy people's efforts in the midst of what can be very challenging work. As she puts it, "When you have the spiritual grounding, you can stay connected to how big this fabric of justice work is — it stretches back in time and forward

in time. And it puts our efforts in the context of making a difference. Even if you don't get to see the results, you know you're moving it forward."

Enthusiastic about UUCSJ's large-scale vision of helping people move justice forward, McTigue is eagerly laying the groundwork for the initiative's future success. "Stay tuned!" she exclaims. "It's a very exciting trajectory we're on."

Jessica L. Atcheson is UUSC's writer and editor.

Anita Hill Reimagines Equality at UUSC Gala

By Jessica L. Atcheson

Anita Hill, professor of social policy, law, and women's studies at Brandeis University, stood up for justice 21 years ago when she refused to remain silent about her experience of sexual harassment. And she's been working for equality in myriad ways ever since. At the UUA's Justice General Assembly in Phoenix, Ariz., this past June, UUSC presented Anita Hill with UUSC's Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award at the UUSC Gala.

Hill, author of the new Beacon Press release *Reimagining Equality: Stories of Gender, Race, and Finding Home*, sat down with UUSC President and CEO Bill Schulz at the Gala for a compelling conversation about race, gender, economic injustice, and the pursuit of equality. After entering the room to a standing ovation, Hill spoke on a range of issues, including gender pay inequality, LGBTQ rights, the *Citizens United* decision, and racial discrimination.

"We've got to understand that all disenfranchised people have something in common," Hill said. "The pursuit of justice really is about equality for everyone." Hill's new book examines how we might achieve such equality. "Real equality boils down to whether or not we feel at home, whether we belong and are valued," Hill told the audience.



Anita Hill speaks with UUSC President Bill Schulz at the UUSC Gala.

In the conversation, Hill focused on how economic injustice disproportionately impacts people who are already marginalized — which UUSC sees throughout its work with global partners. She specifically talked about workers' rights and the ways in which particular groups of workers are exempted from certain protections. Ultimately, Hill said, "When it comes down to it, we're all fighting for the same thing, and we need to be fighting together."

Check out a multimedia account of Anita Hill's appearance at uusc.org/anitahill.

Jessica L. Atcheson is UUSC's writer and editor.

By the Numbers: Women and the Human Right to Water

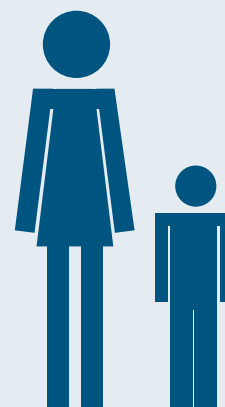
Over 780 million people are without access to improved sources of drinking water and 2.5 billion lack improved sanitation.¹



In an analysis of data from 25 countries in sub-Saharan Africa (representing 48 percent of the region's population), 71 percent of households without water on the premises (which is 75 percent of all households), women and girls are mainly responsible for water collection.²



Mean time for one round-trip to collect water is approximately 30 minutes.³



In these 25 countries, it is estimated that women spend a combined total of at least 16 million hours each day collecting drinking water; men spend 6 million hours; and children, 4 million hours.⁴

A study of community water and sanitation projects in 88 communities in 15 countries by the International Water and Sanitation Centre found that projects designed and run with the full participation of women are more sustainable and effective than those that are not.⁵

¹ UNICEF and World Health Organization, *Progress on Drinking Water and Sanitation: 2012 Update*, accessed July 12, 2012, <http://www.unicef.org/media/files/JMPreport2012.pdf>.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Van Wijk-Sijbesma, Christine, *Gender in Water Resources Management, Water Supply and Sanitation: Roles and Realities Revisited* (Delft, the Netherlands: International Research Centre for Water and Sanitation, 1998). Accessed July 12, 2012, http://www.gewamed.net/share/img_documents/22_back_iwrm1.pdf.

Women Leaders Advancing the Human Right to Water in Collaboration with UUSC

Rev. Lindi Ramsden

Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry and UULM Action Network,
California, USA



Rev. Ramsden helped form the Safe Water Alliance, a powerful coalition advancing the human right to water in California.

Maria Herrera

Community Water Center,
California, USA

Together with Rev. Ramsden, Herrera helped pass four California human-right-to-water bills. She organizes affected communities in Tulare County.

Maria Silvia Emanuelli, Lydia Velazquez Reynosa, Martha Delgado, Maria Carlotta, and Gloria Pedroza
Habitat International Coalition, Latin America (HIC-AL),
Mexico



HIC-AL's Emanuelli helped these four courageous women file legal cases (including one successful appeal) demanding access to safe drinking water.

Angeles Pereira

Center for Human Rights and the Environment,
Argentina

Pereira led a groundbreaking legal clinic that resulted in local government being required to provide drinking water to pollution-affected communities.

Catarina de Albuquerque

United Nations Human Rights Council,
Portugal and Switzerland



De Albuquerque is the first U.N. special rapporteur on the right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

Felister Kisangure

Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP),
Tanzania

A TGNP youth leader, Kisangure organizes community members to advocate for an adequate water supply system in Kiwalani, Tanzania.

To learn more about UUSC's work on the human right to water with these partners and others, visit uusc.org/righttowater.

Building Movements for Change

George Friday and the Local Civil Rights Restoration platform

By Anna Bartlett

George Friday began working as a community organizer at the age of 14. She had complained to her teacher about an assignment, and the teacher responded by belittling Friday's opinions while referencing her race and class. After Friday rallied her friends and fellow students, the teacher was dismissed and student input began to be included in teacher evaluations. Today, Friday continues as a dynamic grassroots leader with the Bill of Rights Defense Committee (BORDC), a UUSC partner that empowers people to challenge oppression and build communities that protect their civil rights.

As BORDC's national organizer, Friday works to mobilize diverse local coalitions through the Local Civil Rights Restoration (LCRR) platform. One of the first steps is bringing people from different communities together to share their challenges and envision how working together can strengthen their capacity to influence the issues they care about. As Friday says, "If we're going to build movements for change, we need to know each other."

The LCRR platform provides an important tool for taking action to protect civil rights: model legislation

for city or municipal councils that limits the ability of local police to carry out discriminatory federal policies. Specifically, LCRR concentrates on policies that result in police profiling of individuals and communities because of race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, and political ideology. Under the LCRR Act, local police are prohibited from participating in federal programs such as Secure Communities and other surveillance and data-collection initiatives run by the FBI and Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Friday supports coalitions across the country through all phases of the LCRR process. An LCRR campaign begins with outreach to potential partners to learn about their issues and begin building strong and resilient relationships that will sustain the coalition. The second phase includes intensive public education and outreach on the issues that coalition members are dealing with.

The local public's understanding and support of proposed reforms is as important as the reforms themselves. Friday and BORDC stress that legislation offers no real protection if the affected communities are not aware



George Friday, national organizer for the Bill of Rights Defense Committee

it exists. Human rights work is not just passing fair public policy; it is growing resilient movements for the protection of all people's rights. "What our work is really about is building a movement for power," says Friday. Without that movement, any gains or impacts that a community makes will be fleeting.

With UUSC's support, BORDC recently brought together 25 coalition leaders in Chicago to begin building a national network of civil liberties activists. Guided by Friday and her colleagues at BORDC, activists from all over the country shared their

successes and challenges, strategized for the future, and built the foundation for enduring relationships that will support their work for years to come.

Learn more about BORDC and download LCRR materials at uusc.org/bordc.

Anna Bartlett is an associate in UUSC's Civil Liberties Program.

In Their Own Words: Ending Gender-Based Violence in Darfur

An interview with Salma Abugideiri of the Peaceful Families Project

Conducted by Gretchen Alther

UUSC and the Peaceful Families Project have engaged religious and community leaders in Darfur to reduce domestic and gender-based violence (GBV) in their communities. The program seeks to change attitudes toward GBV from the assumption that it is normal to the recognition that GBV is inconsistent with time-honored Islamic values. Gretchen Alther interviewed Salma Abugideiri, codirector of the Peaceful Families Project, about the trainings she led in Darfur in January 2012.

In UUSC's work in Darfur, there is a very conscious effort to connect imams and women leaders. Why is that important?

The role of the imam is critical: without the imam's endorsement of an attempt at change, people will resist it. They'll say it's against our religion or it's against our culture. But people are willing to reconsider cultural values if compelled by their religious teachings. So when an imam says something, it holds a lot of power. But women mostly learn from other women. So if women leaders understand and feel strong enough to use religious teachings, and if the imam gives them credibility, then women have a lot of power.

Women are actually the most influential people in a society because, as mothers, they're passing down the social norms. The work can't be effective without a partnership between women leaders and imams. And the men also have to be on board as role models and stand beside the women — because it isn't safe for women alone to be change agents. So, ultimately, everybody has to work together.

What does it mean for Darfur that we have come to a point where we can do this kind of work?

It's exciting. It's an opportunity for people to have a better quality of life — men and women, because men are also oppressed. Men and women can have lives in which they can fulfill their potential and have relationships that are richer, healthier, and happier. This work opens the possibility for families, communities, and society to grow. And of course, we know that when women are well in a society, all kinds of good things happen.



As you reflect on the work you've done with UUSC in Darfur, what stands out to you?

People's passion and resilience. With few resources and a few new tools — tools they already had, they just didn't know it — they're willing to do huge things. They have such determination, passion, and optimism and are taking on really huge cultural changes.

How has this work in Darfur influenced the work you are doing on these issues in the United States?

It's definitely inspired me, because if people in Darfur can make these changes, we certainly can. It's broadened my understanding of the

complexity of gender-based violence. It has also reminded me that boys and men are also victims and sometimes need to be empowered as much as women. Cultural systems don't give wiggle room to either gender: both need to be empowered. This experience has reaffirmed my commitment to this work.

Hear more about this work from Abugideiri in a video at uusc.org/salmavideo.

Gretchen Alther, a former senior associate in UUSC's Rights in Humanitarian Crises Program, is a fellow in the Asia Pacific Leadership Program at the East-West Center in Honolulu.

Dedication That Stands Out

Supporter profile: Nancy Nowak

By Maxine Neil

Out of the many interesting and thoughtful interactions I have with UUSC volunteers and donors, those with Nancy Nowak stand out. Only two months on the job, I met Nowak at the airport in Boston. After a few pleasantries, we discovered we were both headed to the UUA General Assembly — and so began a wonderful relationship. An ideal supporter and volunteer leader, Nowak exudes an energy and enthusiasm that very few people can match.

As a member of First Parish in Duxbury, Mass., Nowak is very active on her congregation's social justice committee and serves on the board of UU Mass Action. Nowak has been married to her husband, Leonard, for

41 years, and they have two children and five grandchildren. Nowak and her husband have been UUSC donors since 1981 and are current members of the UUSC Stewardship Circle.

Please read on for Nowak's story and join us in congratulating her on her tireless efforts to advance human rights together with UUSC!

Maxine Neil is UUSC's director of institutional advancement. If you would like to learn more about the Stewardship Circle or the Volunteer Network, please contact Neil at 617-301-4313 or mneil@uusuc.org.



Nancy Nowak on a service-learning trip to Haiti.

My involvement with UUSC has been a blessing for me: special people, education, understanding, meaning, and a fulfillment of life goals!

My interest in life beyond U.S. shores began in college. As a Peace Corps volunteer (serving as a nurse 1963–65) in Ethiopia, my commitment to international issues mushroomed and coalesced. The world became my neighborhood; its people, my neighbors and friends. Yet I barely understood human rights and justice.

I became a Unitarian Universalist in Benares, India, though I couldn't name my new spiritual ideas. As a UU in Atlanta, I learned a little about UUSC and became our congregation's UUSC local representative.

In 1995, my family returned to Ethiopia for my 30th Peace Corps reunion; there, I visited Planned Parenthood of Eritrea, a UUSC partner at the time. The director was

a nurse I had worked with in 1964! A UUSC poster was hanging in her office, and she said that UUSC was critical in keeping her organization's doors open.

From then on, I was a UUSC believer! I became one of the national co-chairs of the UUSC Volunteer Network and served on the UUSC Board of Trustees from 1997 to 2004. Since retirement, I've visited UUSC partners in Thailand, Guatemala, and Haiti.

The work of UUSC — its human rights mission, leadership, and partners — creates systemic change and builds our world community with peace, liberty, and justice. UUSC brings hope! My life has been immeasurably enriched by my association with UUSC.

—Nancy Nowak



Nancy Nowak, UUSC supporter and volunteer extraordinaire

A True Legacy

By Maxine Neil



Over the years UUSC has received many thoughtful and generous donations. Sometimes we are fortunate to be included in a donor's will. Leonard C. Brown Jr. is someone special who did just that.

Born in 1925, Brown was married for more than 40 years to his wife, Constance Cauthers Brown, and had a son and two grandchildren. Although he had an engineering degree, he spent most of his career in sales and marketing for General Electric. Even after he retired, he worked on a consulting basis. His son, Doug, says that anyone who

met Brown knew about his passion for jazz. Brown didn't just love jazz; he researched and gave presentations about it to share his passion.

A Unitarian Universalist for more than 50 years, Brown was a member of the UU Congregation in Westport, Conn. It was important to him that his UU values be put into action to advance human rights and social justice around the world — even when he was no longer around. That's why he made the deliberate and thoughtful act of including UUSC in his estate plans.

UUSC is grateful to be able to defend workers' rights, promote the human right to water, uphold civil liberties, and protect rights in humanitarian crisis. We are also excited to offer youth and young adults hands-on service-learning experiences through the UU College of Social Justice. And we recognize that all of that work is possible because of loyal supporters like Brown.

Maxine Neil is UUSC's director of institutional advancement. If you would like information about how to include UUSC in your estate plans, please contact Neil at 617-301-4313 or mneil@uusuc.org.

CREATIVE WAYS TO SUPPORT UUSC

Have you wondered how you could expand your support of UUSC? Or find a way to get your family and friends involved? Your search is over.

Try one or more of the following:

- Ask your friends to bring a gift for UUSC to your birthday celebration — perfect if you already have everything you need!
- Create a matching challenge in your congregation, on your own or in conjunction with a UUSC membership drive or Guest at Your Table. By creating a matching campaign, you inspire others to reach toward a higher goal and might even help your congregation achieve UUSC award status!
- Establish an endowment fund in memory of a human rights champion who recently passed away — it will create a legacy and continue the work.
- Recognize Mother's and Father's Day by making a gift to honor your parents. This not only expresses your love but also shows you're living the values they taught you as a child.

Have any other unique ideas? Share them on UUSC's Facebook page at [facebook.com/uusc4all](https://www.facebook.com/uusc4all)!

Annual Fund Success

You did it! UUSC's 2012 Annual Fund campaign was a tremendous success due to your generosity and that of more than 3,500 other friends of UUSC. We reached our goal of \$300,000 — and met the matching challenge of \$100,000.

We could not have done it without you. Thank you!

CHOOSE COMPASSIONATE
CONSUMPTION BY SHOPPING WITH
UUSC

Purchase ethically sourced goods to support UUSC's work and promote human rights.

Find the perfect gifts — for your friends, family, or yourself! Choose from a variety of products that include T-shirts, jewelry, scented candles, and more.



To shop, visit uusc.org/store.

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