



Common Ground

Social Justice Newsletter UU Church Bloomington In

25% Sunday Plate Collection for Social Justice: Final Call for Applications

The process for selecting a local non-profit agency to receive 25% of Sunday plate collection for the next fiscal year is underway. The Social Justice Funds Committee, which oversees the early stages of the process, has forms available now for anyone who would like to make a nomination.

The applications can be found in a folder in the Social Justice Funds Committee mailbox in the volunteer workroom of the church. You can also request the application electronically from either Stephanie Estell nanaysteph@hotmail.com or Jennifer Blankenship jblankfamily@hotmail.com. After the applications are submitted, the committee will select up to three nominees, from which one will be chosen by vote at the spring congregational meeting.

If you submit an application, you are responsible for contacting the nominated agency to gather the information necessary to complete the application. **The completed applications must be submitted no later than Wednesday, April 1, to be considered. Completed applications can be returned in the SJSC mailbox in the workroom or submitted electronically to Stephanie or Jennifer.** Contact either

of them if you would like further information.

Recipients of funds in previous years were MCUM, Stepping Stones, Community Justice & Mediation Center, Shalom Community Center, and Community Kitchen of Monroe County. Volunteers in Medicine was the 2008-2009 recipient and will continue to receive 25% of the undesignated Sunday Plate Collection through June, 2009.

*The Social Justice Funds Committee
Stephanie Estell and Jennifer Blankenship, co-chairs
Joan Caulton, Jan and Jerry Neff*



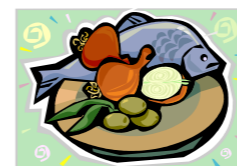
Ysabel and Ethan sell baked goods for MCUM

Children work for Social Justice.

This year the children in Religious Education have made lunch for Habitat for Humanity, learned about healing the earth, raised money for MCUM, UUSC and Heifer International. They have also made lasagna and goody bags for children at Shalom Community Center and brought in food for the hungry. See this month's social justice bulletin board in the Commons.

Why do we eat what we eat?

As Reverend Macklin shared in her recent sermon, **Ethical Eating** is the new study action issue for the Unitarian Universalist Association. Along with many UU congregations across the country, our congregation will explore together what it means to eat ethically. Where does our food come from? How do we prepare our food? How do our choices about food affect



Can we make a difference by eating ethically?

our families, our local and global communities, our health, our economy and our environment? How do we effectively address hunger and nutrition in our communities?

For the moment, I invite you, the reader, to stop, close your eyes, and think about the food that you most recently ate. Where was it grown? Who grew it? Can you imagine the field it was grown in? Where was it processed or prepared? Why is this particular food important to you? There will be many opportunities this

year to explore these questions further through readings and in the company of others.

Learning about food means plenty of eating, too! On

Sunday, March 22 at 5pm, the Green Sanctuary Task Force will host a **veggie potluck** with an emphasis on seasonal local food. We hope many people will join us to share and taste early spring recipes! (Think rhubarb, radishes, greens and more...)

In his essay "The Pleasures of Eating," Wendell Berry states, "*Eating with the fullest pleasure — pleasure, that is, that does not depend on ignorance — is perhaps the profoundest enactment of our connection with the world.*" Let us therefore learn more about our food and find the pleasure and connection that comes with eating ethically and consciously.

-Rosalind May, Green Sanctuary Task Force

You're Invited...
Veggie Potluck!

Sunday
March
22
5PM



Newcomers and visitors especially welcome!

Just Peace Task Force: Six Years

Six years ago this month, many of us gathered on Courthouse Square in a vigil to express our shock and sorrow at the U.S. invasion of Iraq. Just three weeks before the invasion, a small group of us held a small meeting with Senator Richard Lugar. At the end one of us said: "Senator, couldn't the attack at least be delayed a few months to see whether weapons inspections could resolve the issue?" He replied: "We have troops in the desert. They have families. They need to get the job done so they can come home."

Six years of war have taken a terrible toll on the families of Americans in Iraq. But Iraqis have suffered much more. We do not even know exactly how many Iraqis have been killed (perhaps 150,000) or have died as a result of war (up to a million). We do know that the war has made refugees out of millions – at least two million internally displaced persons and at least two million who have fled Iraq. This anniversary, Bloomington Peace Action Coalition, with the support of the Just Peace Task Force, is organizing a benefit on behalf of Iraqi refugees.

Benefit for the People of Iraq will take place on Wednesday, March 25th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the John Waldron Arts Center Auditorium, 122 S.



Benefit for the People of Iraq

Wednesday March 25, 2009
John Waldron Arts Center Auditorium

Music from Janiece Jaffe, Curtis Cantwell Jackson, and Deborah and Jonathan Hutchison.

Speaker Noah Baker Miller

Film: "Remember Iraq"

Tickets: \$15
email BPACpeace@hotmail.com

Walnut Street, Bloomington. The Benefit Concert and Program will feature musical offerings by Janiece Jaffe, Curtis Cantwell Jackson, and Deborah & Jonathan Hutchison.

Noah Baker Merrill, Project Director of Direct Aid Iraq, will speak about the needs of Iraqi refugees and the work of Direct Aid Iraq, and present a new film, "Remember Iraq", giving just a few of the more than 5 million displaced Iraqis an opportunity to speak for themselves about their experiences and needs.

Tickets: \$15, available now and at the door. Reserve your tickets by emailing BPACpeace@hotmail.com or calling 988-1917. Learn more about Direct Aid Iraq at their website: <http://www.directaidiraq.org/about/>
For more information on the Just Peace Task Force contact David Keppel 331-2815 keppel@sbcglobal.net.

Habitat for Humanity Women's Build

It is time to organize the our team for Habitat's Women's Build. **The UU team will work on May 14**, first of nine days of the build, when we will be measuring, cutting and hammering to build the walls that will get raised by the next team. This will be the first time that the walls have been build by a team of women on site.

Each team member will be responsible for either personally contributing or raising funds. If you're interested in participating or learning more about the build, contact Mary Andrus-Overley (maryao@earthlink.net, 334-3437), who is the UU team captain again.

Journey of Hope From Violence to Healing

When: Friday, March 20th, 7 PM
Where: St. Paul's Catholic Center
Who: Bess Klassen-Landis and Bill Pelke, through stories and music, will share their experiences of losing family members to murder and why they've devoted their lives to ending the death penalty.

Refreshments and Discussion

Sponsored by: Bloomington Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty; UU Friends of Prisoners Task Force; Trinity Episcopal, Friends Meeting, and St. Paul's Catholic Center Social Justice Committees

Step Forward—Feed the Hungry, Feed Your Spirit

Are you looking for your niche in our vibrant congregation?
Perhaps this is it!



The Help Feed Our Hungry Neighbors Task Force is seeking new leadership. This group was formed almost three years ago and has grown into a strong, well-oiled committee whose achievements have expanded with each year. Last year was a banner year for food donations through the Bounty-Full Sunday collections, the Holiday Food Baskets, and the money taken in at our bazaar through the sale of hats and scarves.

Three programs are well in place with schedules and publicity already done in the way of signs and PDFs. But there are numerous avenues for new activities such as food drives at our places of work, fund raising concerts, and helping other community organizations that help to feed the hungry.

Members of the task force will help to make the transition with our new Chair as easy as possible.

The need for our help is rising every day. Search in your heart if this is a job that you or somebody you know would like to take on.

Mary Blizzard 812-333-8957, mary_blizzard@hotmail.com