

Social Justice Update



Share the Plate - Boys to Men (selected by Senior Youth Group)

Courageously committed to ending male violence and self-harm while advancing gender equity.

Each week, we share one third of our offering with a local nonprofit to show our support for organizations whose work furthers the values expressed in our denomination's foundation of love. We hope that Share the Plate will also bring a greater awareness to the community of Allen Avenue UU Church and Unitarian-Universalist values.

30 DAYS OF LOVE

Jan 14- Feb 14

Each week get a message, journal prompt, body practice, art practice, and a family friendly, multigenerational activity. uua.org



SJC MONTHLY MEETING

February 26th at 7PM
via Zoom

Go to Breeze or
contact: [Julie Harrison](#)

Links



Podcast of the Month

How to be a Better Human and in particular this episode on **How Sikh wisdom can transform your life** with Simran

Jeet Singh. He shares lessons from the Sikh faith about how to cope with tough questions and how it is a faith of compassion, service and love.

Data Corner

The State of Racial Disparities from the Maine Commission of Racial, Indigenous & Tribal Populations is available [here](#)



"A place to find community with transgender, nonbinary folk and our allies
A conference for us to gather, learn and grow."

Saturday, April 27, 2024

In-person & Online

At First UU Society of Syracuse, NY

Live Oak UU Church, TX, UU Community of

Charlotte, NC, First UU Church of Nashville, TN, First

Unitarian Church of Orlando, FL

Here is a link to the recording from the 12-5-2024 info session on being a satellite host site for the 2025 Building Beloved Community Beyond the Binary: <https://youtu.be/wbiGTyDPp4M>

If you are interested in helping organize the conference on April 27th please reach out to John Howard or Naneen Chace-Ortiz



People's March Pictures - Jan 18th

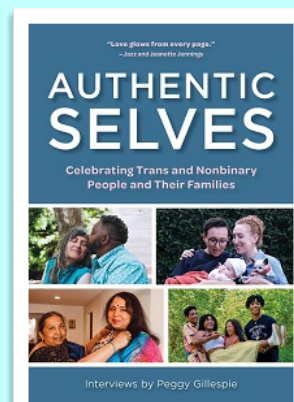


2025 COMMON READ

Groundbreaking in its depictions of joy and community, Authentic Selves celebrates trans and nonbinary people and their families in stunning photographs and their own words. A2U2 will focus on reflection, learning, and action. Here is a link to a 10 minute video: <https://vimeo.com/1018035471>

The meetings will be two 90 minute sessions either in person or on Zoom.

- **In Person (with lunch): February 2 and 16th** from 11:15-1pm
- **On Zoom: February 9 and 23rd** from 1:30-3pm
- **A separate 1-session discussion of the common read will take place for anyone who identifies as non-binary or trans** and would prefer a caucus group space to process the material. Please contact Rev. Tara who will lead that session (which will be scheduled in consultation with those interested to make sure we pick a time that works for everyone).



BROAD-BASED ORGANIZING IN MAINE INFO SESSION

Join a newly forming coalition of leaders to learn more about broad-based organizing can help us build the relational power we need for sustained, equitable change in our community.

To learn more about how this model of organizing could have a significant influence in our state, join us!

Many leaders from faith communities and third-sector organizations across greater Portland (and beyond) will be present for this beginning conversation.

[Register here to confirm your spot.](#)

Reach out to Jake Fahey at: jake@communitychangeinc.org with any questions!

Friday February 14th: 12 - 1:30pm

Hope Gateway Church

515 Woodford St



PINK HAVEN MAINE
~UPDATE CALL~
FEB 19, 5:30-6:30PM - ZOOM

A2U2 folks and our community partners involved in capacity building for the work of trans relocation will meet to discuss where we are and share updates on the work. Newcomers are welcome to join us.

INTERESTED IN JOINING? CONTACT REV. TARA

Share the Plate Nominations for 2025-2026 Church Year are Being Accepted

It is our tradition to share 1/3 of each Sunday's offering to a non-profit organization chosen by members of the congregation. The Social Justice Committee will be accepting nominations from the congregation in February and March. Do you have a non-profit organization that you would like to nominate for the 2024-2025 church year? If so, here is a link to submit your nomination. <https://a2u2.breezechms.com/form/ShareThePlateNominationFormFY26>

Paper forms are also available on the Social Justice bulletin board in the foyer. Nominations will be collected through Sunday, March 30st.

The Social Justice Committee will evaluate the nominations and recommend recipients to the board. The board will make the final selection at their April meeting.

When evaluating nominations, the Social Justice Committee will use the following criteria:

- Organization or project shares our values and is consistent with our principles
- Local impact
- Organization is small enough that a contribution of \$400-\$500 will make a significant difference
- Provides volunteer opportunities for A2U2 members
- Organization has not been selected recently (though we have made exceptions)

Recipients must be §501(c)(3) tax exempt charitable organizations.

For more information, see [Jim Mason](#) or [Julie Harrison](#).

TAKING ACTION TOGETHER

The Social Justice Committee is forming a group to meet weekly, in-person, to take action together. This may include writing letters to our senators and representatives, aligning with non-partisan organizations in the work they are doing, writing letters to the editor, making phone calls, and generally supporting each other as we educate ourselves on strategies to protect our democracy and marginalized communities. Our initial thought is a Friday morning coffee group where people can drop in when it works for their schedule.

- Please contact [Julie Harrison](#), julielynharrison@gmail.com or [Cynthia Marten](#), cleighmarten@gmail.com if you would like to receive information.

