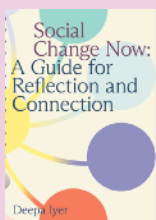


Social Justice Update



Share the Plate – Greater Portland Family Promise

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.



25-26

COMMON READ

Books for sale Sept 21st
after service

FRIDAY AFTERNOON CALLS FOR ACTION

Friday 2-3 PM at Church

Rooms 7 & 9

FMI email: Julie Harrison
(julielynharrison@gmail.com)

NEXT SJC MEETING

September 24th at 7PM
via Zoom

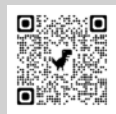
For Zoom link go to
Breeze or contact: Julie Harrison
(julielynharrison@gmail.com)

Links

iNaturalist

Video of the Month

Ted talk by Scott Loarie, creator of iNaturalist an App for your phone where you can engage in science with people locally and across the world



Podcast of the Month – Ologies by Alie Ward. Ologies is a podcast that focuses on one topic each episode by talking to a specialist in that field. There are also edited **Smologies** for younger listeners!





FRIDAY AFTERNOON CALL FOR ACTION MEETS WEEKLY AT 2:00–3:00 P.M. AT A2U2 OPEN TO ALL A2U2 FRIENDS AND GUESTS

What have our actions been?

- Letters: Vote Forward
- Postcards: Center for Common Ground
- Submitted testimony for Maine Legislature
- Created Signs for protests, rallies
- Attended AveLo protest at the airport as a group
- Phone banked for Planned Parenthood
- Calls to Susan Collins
- Bridge Brigade (Wed. And Fri. Afternoons)
- Letters to the editor

■ The referendum reads, “Do you want to change Maine election laws to eliminate two days of absentee voting, prohibit requests for absentee ballots by phone or family members, end ongoing absentee voter status for seniors and people with disabilities, ban prepaid postage on absentee ballot return envelopes, limit the number of drop boxes, require voters to show certain photo ID before voting, and make other changes to our elections?”

2. Continue writing letters and postcards for national elections with:

- Center for Common Ground
- Vote Forward
- GrayPAC

3. Sign up as a group for the Bridge Brigade on a Friday, instead of meeting at 2:00

4. Self-care: explore and share how we find joy and a sense of balance in these extraordinary times.



What is our focus this Fall?

1. We will be engaged with saveabsentee.me and the [League of Women Voters](#) to stop this referendum from passing in November 2025.





FASCINATING HUMAN OF THE MONTH: DELORES HUERTA

Civil rights legend Dolores Huerta, 95, is still engaging in farm labor issues. She first began lobbying the California legislature on farm labor issues when she was just 25, and she founded an agriculture workers union soon after. In her early 30s, she partnered with civil rights leader Cesar Chavez to create the National Farm Workers Association, now the United Farm Workers. For years, she and Chavez worked in tandem, delivering major victories to protect farm workers from exploitation and exposure to dangerous pesticides.

President Barack Obama awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2012.

Read her [interview in Politico](#) as she discusses how the Trump administration's mass deportation efforts interfere with the need to keep farm production going.

Let's offer farmworkers \$50 an hour, the same kind of a salary that you offer the prison guards, and you'll get a lot of American workers. - Dolores Huerta



CHECK HERE FOR ADVOCACY ACTIONS

<https://ilapmaine.org/advocacy-in-action>

DEMOCRACY IN COLOR

HOW ONE IMMIGRANT IS SHARING HER STORY ABOUT LOVE AND BELONGING

The issue of immigration in our country's politics is truly a question about identity and belonging. That question lies at the heart of an existential battle over what kind of country America should be.

Immigration Activist Cristina Jiménez and Steve from the Democracy in Color Team talk about her new book, *Dreaming of Home: How We Turn Fear Into Pride, Power and Real Change*.

Cristina Jiménez discusses why this current moment in our political climate requires understanding the roots of U.S. immigration policy. Despite the widespread hatred and xenophobia, courageous leaders and activists like Cristina continue to promote love, community, and connection, as they steadfastly push our country to live up to its highest and best ideals.



Join us for The Gathering, a monthly virtual event from Side With Love designed to offer:

- Spiritual Grounding – Strengthen your heart and spirit for the work ahead.
- Political Analysis – Understand the threats to democracy and justice.
- Collective Action – Organize with others to block anti-democratic forces and build a just and loving world.

We kick off the church year with live music from Parker Woodland and a conversation about Solidarity with Side with Love's Nicole Pressley and **Deepa Iyer, author of this year's UUA Common Read Social Change Now: A Guide for Reflection and Connection.**

As Nicole said after a conversation at General Assembly, "Deepa's work at the intersections of solidarity, social change ecosystems, and movement building has been an important roadmap for so many of us navigating the complexity and urgency of this moment. Her reflections on grief, solidarity, and sustainable activism are brilliant and grounding."

• **September 8th** •

QR CODES for links in this issue

Use Smartphone camera to hover over the QR code and go to the link.



**Greater Portland
Family Promise**



UUA Common Read
Social Change Now: A
Guide for Reflection
and Connection by
Deepa Iyer



**Democracy in Color
Podcast: Courage
Over Fear With
Immigration Activist
Christina Jimenez**



**What It Will Take to
Get U.S. Citizens to
Work the Farm –
According to Dolores
Huerta**



**The Gathering, a
monthly UUA virtual
event from Side With
Love**