



Social Action News – October 2022

Editor: L. Mahaffey

UU THE VOTE

This election year, many congregants have chosen to lean deeper into their UU values by working to uphold the Fifth Principle: the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.

UU the Vote, a nonpartisan campaign created by the Unitarian Universalist Association, provides various ways for UUs to encourage infrequent and/or marginalized voters to cast their votes. With recent Supreme Court decisions in mind, the 2022 campaign challenges UUs to create “good trouble” by doing more than just casting a ballot. UUCF Social Action responded to the call by offering letter and postcard-writing opportunities through partner organizations **Vote Forward** and **Reclaim Our Vote**. The personalization of cards and letters has proven to make a real difference in motivating hard-to-reach voters.



This Spring the Reclaim Our Vote postcard-writing team began writing to voters in Florida and Virginia, where legislatures have made it more difficult for people to vote. The cards contained specifics about how the person could find out exactly when and where to vote in their county. A dedicated group of 8 UUCF volunteers mailed 550 postcards from May through September.

On-going until Oct. 29: Volunteers are still writing letters! Doris Dressler Clark and an initially small team set an original goal of 1000 letters. As of mid-October a team of 19 writers, some of whom wrote more than 300 letters apiece, has 1,295 letters ready to be mailed on Oct. 29! These letters will be part of the **millions** of Vote Forward letters being mailed from around the U.S.

The Social Action Committee wishes to recognize the following volunteers for their

contribution to the UU the Vote 2022 campaign: Cathy Boon, Mary Botts, Barry Burriesci, Lorne Caddick, Fran Doble, Darryl Doty, Rebecca Dueuel-Gallegos, Doris Dressler-Clark, Linda Duarte-Wolf, Christina Garner, Donnette Guiltinan, Rayna Hamre, Randi Hetrick, Ann Hoch, Wendy Karn, Debbie Langenbacher, Gordon Lillibridge, Rose London, Lesley Mahaffey, Pat Mannion, Sherlan Neblett, Mary Rhodes, Ethel Sapico, Steve Schuster, Paula Spiro, and Donna Woodbridge.



Come Join Us - Participate In Vote Forward

When Doris first asked me to get involved in Vote Forward, I saw it as an opportunity to “step up”. Too often I have not lived up to my favorite quote from High School: Theodore Roosevelt’s “While Daring Greatly”.

It feels good to be part of a worthy cause. It feels good to share the workload with likeminded souls. An added bonus, much like doing the dishes at someone else's house, it's NOT WORK anymore, it's fun and it's a social "fest"!

We all want to do our part to make this a better world for our children. It's easy to feel powerless as to how to go about doing so in a tangible way. This is something we can all do and know we are making a contribution in a very real way...by strengthening our democracy. Our democracy is only strong when we all participate in it; when every citizen votes; when every citizen understands that voting is so critically important. That it's not just a right but a privilege and a responsibility.

To vote intelligently IS A BIG responsibility. As we struggle with climate change, depletion of energy sources, pollution, species extinction, the education of our children, wars, pandemics, etc., our choice of

leaders has become even more profoundly important. The leaders we select must make formative decisions about these and many issues effecting local, state, national levels and even on a global level as we now recognize, especially after COVID.

I recently read an article in the New York Times about Uruguay and the strides that country has made recently in creating a democracy that honors the environment and reduces their carbon footprint. Hopefully we, and other nations, can follow this example.

There IS strength in numbers. Working together we CAN make a difference. Please join me and "step up". You too can make a difference.

Linda Duarte-Wolf

UU Justice Ministry of CA Offers Ballot Measure Recommendations

Please see the chart of recommendations in the other attachment to this email. UUCF has not endorsed any ballot position. The Social Action Committee, however, urges voters to **vote YES on Proposition 1**.

See www.uujmca.org for more about this UU organization's mission.

UUCF Helps St. Andrew's Soup Kitchen

In August the Social Action Committee decided to hold a fundraiser to provide food and supplies for St. Andrew's Episcopal Church of Fullerton's weekly Soup Kitchen. This turned out to be a great success, raising \$1,500! St. Andrews is very grateful for this donation, which will cover meal costs for 6-8 weeks.

With UUCF's move to the downtown area, we want to raise our visibility in the community and show our activism in ways that directly help our community. This donation is a good start. We continue to support Pathways of Hope with our weekly food collection and we are now part of the interfaith community providing hot meals to the hungry in Fullerton. The UUCF congregation is amazing.

While the kitchen at Saint Andrew's is undergoing major renovation, meals are being prepared and served at the First Lutheran Church (E Wilshire Ave & N Pomona St). Currently, about 75 meals are prepared and packed in take-out containers. The hot meals,

juice, water, and a bag lunches are then distributed outside to anyone who shows up. Second helpings are often provided as well.

This Friday night operation could use some extra volunteers. The work is easy, although the kitchen area can be hot. Volunteers are needed to assemble and distribute the meals; this is done between 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm (one person stays until 6:45 pm). There's also cooking duty, which runs from about 3:00 pm to 5:30pm. It would be great to get a few more UU's to volunteer. If you find this of interest, talk to current volunteers Mary Botts, Barry Burriesci, or Lesley Mahaffey (all in the Directory) to get more details.

Barry Burriesci



Samantha Wylie, Mary Botts and Matt Simon readying the salad.

Reproductive Justice

Next year marks the 50th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, and what better way to express our radical hospitality in the coming year, than to raise funds to support women from other states to travel to CA for reproductive/ abortion care that they cannot receive in their home state since Roe vs. Wade was overturned on June 24, 2022.

The UUCF Social Action Committee and other passionate congregants will be creating opportunities for fundraising at all levels, with the goal of helping three, four, or more women who are in need of this care. Some of the ways we expect to raise funds include targeted online donations, house parties, live performances, and more. Together we can make a real difference! Please stay alert for announcements and opportunities to get involved.