

CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT UUFVB

Read all the details in the Congregational Record about the many events at the Fellowship to celebrate Black History Month. They begin on Feb. 1 with actress Ersula Know-Odom's portrayal of Mary McLeod Bethune at the Florida Humanities Lecture Series. On Saturday, Feb. 3, Julianne Price will talk about "Unnatural Causes" of health problems in minority populations. Three films will be shown: "Down in the Delta", "Red Tails", and "Africa's Great Civilizations" (from PBS). There are two events on Feb. 25: a Sunday sermon by Rev. Crystal Bujol and the Fellowship's book group discussing a book by Zora Neale Hurston. Most of the events are open to the public.

CIW BOYCOTT OF WENDY'S CONTINUES

On January 18, 2018, nearly three dozen faith leaders from around the country will join together for National Day of Fasting and Witness to protest ongoing and unconscionable refusal to join the Fair Food Program by Wendy's executives.

The fast will take place on the 20th anniversary of the breaking of the 30-day hunger strike undertaken by six workers in 1998, when the Coalition of Immokalee Workers was calling for a dialogue with growers to end poverty and violence in the fields. The hunger strike was finally broken when former President Jimmy Carter and Bishop John Nevins of the Catholic Diocese of Venice intervened, and called upon people to join with farmworkers to bring justice to U.S. agriculture.

FACTS & FIGURES FROM A NOVEMBER SYMPOSIUM ON POVERTY AND JUSTICE REFORM

- America has 5% of the world's population and 20% of its prisoners.
- 1 in 14 children has an incarcerated parent.
- 1 in 8 poor children has an incarcerated parent.
- In 2015, 2,173,800 people were in prison, jail, on parole, or on probation.
- 1 in 3 black men born in 2001 are likely to be imprisoned during their lifetime but only 1 in 17 white men and 1 in 6 Latino men.

A criminal record limits job opportunities, housing access, education, loan opportunities, & civic rights.

IS SAND AN ENDANGERED NATURAL TREASURE?

There is an urgent need to pay attention to sand – an invaluable, finite, and fast-disappearing natural resource. Sand is used in nearly every skyscraper, shopping mall, condo complex, office tower, parking garage, airport terminal, and dam as well as highway, subway, sidewalk, and runway around the globe because sand is a basic ingredient in concrete. Window glass is made of melted sand. Beach replenishment and fracking use sand. We are using more sand today than any other natural resource except water. And we are running out of it.

Sand is ground rock, mostly quartz. Nature does create more sand constantly, but it can't keep up with the current rate of extraction as acknowledged in a 2014 United Nations report.

The global sand grab mostly takes place out of public view – on remote islands, isolated sections of lakes and rivers, in distant jungles and forests, and backwater farms and fishing villages. Rural and lower-income people are primarily the ones who end up paying the costs (uncompensated) of extraction – economic, environmental, health, and aesthetic costs.

One example is Cambodia where since 2007 dredging corporations have been stripping sand from many rivers, estuaries, islands, and mangrove forests. Trainloads of sand for use in fracking are extracted from Minnesota and Wisconsin, causing water and air pollution in those two states. Sand is dredged from Monterey Bay in California, from the Yangtze River in China, from Australia, from North Carolina. In India, Indonesia, Cambodia, and Kenya, environmental activists, journalists, and defiant locals have been imprisoned and even murdered for standing in the way of the piles of "dirty money" exchanged in the business of extracting innumerable tons of sand.

Why not take the sand from the vast deserts in Africa and the Middle East? Those sand grains are too small and rounded to make concrete. Even Dubai imports sand from Australia! We need to pay attention to this latest concern for a natural resource! [from: *The Hightower Lowdown*, August 2017]



The Sierra Club reports that in 2017 the following actions were taken at the federal level. These actions affect public lands, clean air and water, threatened wildlife, and climate change policies.

29 rules were overturned; examples are rules about flood building standards, endangered species listings, reusable water bottles rule for national parks, and sewage treatment pollution regulations.

24 rollbacks are in progress; examples are the Clean Power Plan, offshore oil and gas leasing, coal ash discharge regulations, oil rig safety regulations, and limits on methane emissions on public lands.

7 more rollbacks are in limbo: methane emission limits at new oil and gas wells, limits on landfill emissions, mercury emission limits for power plants, hazardous chemical facility regulations, groundwater protections for uranium mines, efficiency standards for federal buildings, and rules that help consumers buy fuel-efficient tires.

GREENPEACE REPORT DOCUMENTS

PERSISTENT THREAT OF PIPELINE SPILLS

The “Dirty Three” companies are Enbridge, Kinder Morgan, and TransCanada (and their subsidiaries and joint ventures), and they are all at varying stages of developing three controversial oil pipelines from Canada’s Tar Sands across the North American continent.

Despite industry claims, pipeline spills have remained a steady problem. Since 2010 there have been 373 spills with 63,221 barrels of hazardous liquids in the US. Extrapolating from current rates of incidents, Keystone XL could see 59 significant spills in a 50-year lifetime.



Diluted bitumen, the form of crude oil that is transported by pipelines, has been shown to be more carbon-

intensive than conventional crude and much harder to clean up when spilled in water.

[source: *Compass Greenpeace*, Winter 2017]

The Social Justice Steering Committee has approved a new sub-committee -- the UU-United Nations Organization (UU-UNO) with David Kimball as its Fellowship envoy. Watch for information from David at the Social Justice Information Table.

SOY-FREE MEAT SUBSTITUTES

When Emerson Center 2017 Celebrated Speaker Dr. Michael Oppenheimer of Princeton was asked what citizens could do to lessen global warming, one thing he said was “eat less meat.” Raising meat for food requires more water, oil, and chemicals than raising fruits and vegetables. According to the US Geological Survey, a ¼ pounder burger requires 150 gallons of water, 1 pound of chicken - 10 gallons, one pound of potatoes – 5 gallons, and one orange – 1 gallon. [from:

<https://water.usgs.gov/edu/activity-watercontent.html>

To reduce their meat intake but still get protein, vegetarians and vegans have typically eaten soybean based products. But soybeans are usually genetically modified and contain phytoestrogens which may increase the risk of some cancers. One alternative called Beyond Meat is made from pea protein, beets, coconut oil, and potato starch. Free of GMOs and packed with 20 grams of protein, these burgers look and taste like meat and “bleed” beet juice. Other soy-free choices are Upton’s Naturals, Sophie’s Kitchen, Lightlife, and Maika Foods.

[from: *Sierra* magazine, Jan/Feb 2018 by Katie O’Reilly]

LOCAL AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFERS CONFERENCE “TRANSFORMING LANDSCAPING FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE” in January

Register today for this conference held at UUFVB on January 19 & 20 by calling 567-3520 or online at www.pelicanislandaudubon.org Speakers include Dr. Edie Widder of ORCA, Dr. Juanita Baker, and Dr. Zak Gezon of Walt Disney Company. Friday evening’s keynote speaker is Dr. Douglas Tallamy of Univ. of Delaware at 6:00 PM. Cost is \$25 which includes lunch on Saturday and a wine and beer reception on Friday evening after the lecture.

UU Justice Florida (UUJFL) is a statewide advocacy network that educates, organizes, and advocates for policies consistent with Unitarian Universalist principles. UUFVB contributes annually to this organization, and member Cate Wenzling is on its board. Several of our members are going to Tallahassee in January to lobby our legislators on UUJFL’s selected issues. **Environmental Justice, Democracy in Action, and Public Health & Safety** are their three issues of focus for 2018.