

The Social Justice Steering Committee announces a **Candidates Forum on Thursday, July 12, at 6:00 PM** in the sanctuary. Please attend to learn about the platform of candidates running for School Board of the School District of IRC in November.

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee Grassroots Partners Deal with Climate Change

Communities are relocating right now because of the impacts of climate change. This is not a future problem – it is a current problem. From Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands to Louisiana and Alaska, households and entire communities have relocated or are planning relocations.

When climate impacts force people to move and rebuild their lives elsewhere, it is critical they have the right to lead decisions around their relocation. Throughout history, examples show why this right of self-determination is so important. Forced relocations due to colonialism and state and private development projects have led to human rights abuses, including reducing people's access to water, food, housing, and standard of living quality. Forced relocations also have resulted in tragic abuses of peoples' cultural and physical heritage.

Learn about UUSC's Environmental Justice & Climate Action program at <https://www.uusc.org/campaign/climate-forced-displacement/>

[by Salote Soqo, UUSC Senior Program Leader for Environmental Justice and Climate Action]

Proposed Florida Constitutional Amendments

The Florida Constitution Revision Commission has released an official Ballot Guide with summaries of all proposed constitutional amendments. At least 60% of Florida voters must support these proposals in order for them to be adopted into our State Constitution. You are encouraged to research each amendment prior to making a decision on which proposals you will support this November. Go to:

<https://www.flcrc.gov/PublishedContent/AdministrativePublications/BallotGuide.pdf>

Skip the Slip

Every year in the US, 13 billion gallons of water, 12 million trees are consumed in the creation of paper receipts, generating 1.5 billion lbs. of waste and emitting 4 billion lbs. of CO₂ into our atmosphere.

Additionally, an estimated 93% of paper receipts are coated with BPA (the same chemical banned from plastic bottles) or BPS (a similar chemical), and should not be recycled. Research suggests that these paper receipts can contribute to human health issues. BPA is shown to contribute to developmental, reproductive, and neurological problems, and BPS can have equal effects on health.

Green America is working to reduce paper receipt use in major US companies to curb the waste of natural resources and protect employee and customer health. They advise companies to offer a combination of options for customers to choose from including no receipt, digital receipts, and non-toxic, recyclable paper.

By taking the Skip the Slip pledge today, you are joining a growing group of people nationwide who are using their power as consumers to urge companies to end the use of paper receipts.

As a person committed to making a more sustainable and healthy society, I acknowledge that I can take action to reduce paper receipts. I pledge to do my part by agreeing to strive for the following actions:

- Begin every shopping transaction by saying I won't need a paper receipt, and will ask for e-receipts when needed, or to decline when asked if I'd like a copy of a receipt.
- Urge companies and businesses I patronize to adopt paperless receipt options.
- Always be mindful about the products I choose to purchase, understanding that everything I buy has an impact on the planet. The fewer products I buy, the fewer receipts to reject.

[from:

http://action.greenamerica.org/p/dia/action4/common/public/?action_KEY=21094]

Get Ready for CreateClimateJustice.net!



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST MINISTRY FOR EARTH

Respect Life. Restore Earth. Renew Spirit.

CreateClimateJustice.net is a new online platform for UUs and community partners to network and collaborate around creating climate and environmental justice. CreateClimateJustice.net will support congregation-based groups, state and regional action networks, individuals, and organizations to connect, organize, share events and resources, build coalitions, and magnify efforts for faith-grounded climate justice. [Sign up now.](#)

Landmark Legal Victory!!! Judge Rules that Florida Legislature Must Spend Amendment 1 Funds on Land Acquisition as Mandated by Voters in 2014

Florida Circuit Judge Charles Dodson ruled on June 15th in favor of environmental organizations that the land conservation constitutional amendment overwhelmingly approved by voters requires funding to be used for land acquisition, and restoration and management of those lands, not for other purposes. Organizations filed suit because the state legislature was violating the Water and Land Conservation Amendment by spending funds on unallowable expenditures. Background on the issue can be found here: <https://earthjustice.org/news/press/2015/conservation-groups-file-amendment-one-lawsuit-in-florida> Read the news release at: <http://www.sierraclubfloridanews.org/2018/06/landmark-legal-victory-judge-rules-that.html>

2018 is the Year of the Bird

Audubon is challenging followers to do one thing every month that will help birds! June's challenge was to "Say NO to Plastics"! Recycling plastics is a good step if you need to use them, but how about not using it in the first place? Here are some easy ways to cut plastics out of your life:

- Bring a reusable water bottle or coffee mug with you when you're out and about
- Keep your reusable shopping bags in your car so you don't forget them and buy some mesh bags to use for produce at our Fair Trade Corner.
- Do without a plastic straw or buy a reusable metal one.
- Skip disposable razors, get ones with replaceable blades or use a straight razor.
- Look for non-plastic food storage options – like beeswax wrap, mason jars, tiffin or bento boxes, and reusable snack bags.
- Shop in bulk stores or food co-ops and farmers markets that sell food without packaging to cut down the amount of Styrofoam and plastic wrap that usually comes with packaged foods.
- Pack your own utensils; throw a full set of utensils with a cloth napkin in your purse or car. Then you can skip the plastic silverware. When ordering take-out on the phone, ask them to not give you the plastic ware.
- Switch to matches instead of plastic disposable lighters.
- For more ideas go to: zerowastehome.com/ and www.litterless.com/

What To Do with Your Unused Prescriptions?

The Sheriff's Dept. no longer accepts unused pharmaceuticals. However, the Walgreen's store on US 1 and 17th Street does. Unused pills should not be flushed down the toilet because they can contaminate surface and drinking water supplies.

Wendy's Boycott Continues



Following Wendy's announcement in June that the company would be repatriating the vast majority of its tomato purchases from Mexico to greenhouses in the US and Canada by the end of the year, the media asked Coalition for Immokalee Workers how the news might affect the farmworkers' demand that Wendy's join the award-winning Fair Food Program. Wendy's move to leave Mexico's produce industry and its culture of violence and corruption was the right one, but it merely remedied its earlier indefensible decision to buy its tomatoes from Mexico. The farmworkers in Wendy's tomato supply chain deserve to enjoy the same, best-in-class human rights protections as workers in the supply chains of Wendy's competitors Taco Bell, McDonald's, Burger King, and Subway. Those food chains have signed on. Why not Wendy's?

Information herein is gleaned from the Internet or magazines. This issue was compiled by Nancy Stiefel.

This issue and prior Social Justice News issues are also on the UUFVB website at uufvb.org/social-justice/social-justice-newsletter/.