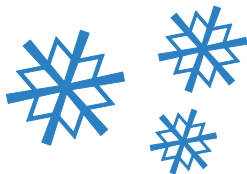




# UUJEC News & Views: Winter 2025



| newsletter@uujec.org | Sally Jane Gellert, editor

## UUA Moderator Candidates Announced! (See page 2 for details.)

## Upcoming Web Seminar: Join us on Thursday, Dec. 12

## Peace for Intergenerational and Global Climate Justice

### COP 29 Report Back with Cindy Piester

Since humans first walked the earth, there had never been a hotter year than 2023—that is, until 2024. UUs have been taking action to change our own lives, “green” our churches, and provide mutual aid as storms and fires impact our local communities. The 1.5° Celsius above-preindustrial-times temperature level was also breached as a monthly average all through 2023. This is a **RED ALERT** for Tipping Points, as in the Amazon Rain Forest, which is moving from being a carbon sink to a carbon source.

The urgency to address the climate crisis on every front has never been more pressing. UUJEC’s new Peace, Equity, and Climate Task Force (PE&C) is working collaboratively to address climate from the perspective that peace is foundational to climate justice, both environmentally and economically.

Our members are diverse and alive with ideas on what we might be able to accomplish going forward.

We are seeking new and meaningful ways to contribute to UU climate conversation and climate efforts. In the coming months, we expect to provide UUs with action-oriented webinars, to look at Project 2025 from our own unique perspectives, to explore climate as it intersects with various aspects of militarism, and to consider such topics as degrowth, circular economies, and what we can do in our own communities to build resilience within the political context in which we find ourselves.

We invite you to take a look at COP 29 from the perspective of UUJEC Board Member and PE&C Chairperson Cindy Piester. Cindy was a founding member of Veterans for Peace’s Climate Crisis and Militarism Project and has served on its Steering Committee for the last 5 years. She is also a member of the Convocation of UU Women and the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF). It is through WILPF that she has been able to attend the UN’s annual Climate Conference, live or virtually, for the last 3 years.

Please register to join Cindy for our webinar on December 12<sup>th</sup> at 5 P.M./6 P.M./7 P.M./8 P.M., Pacific to Eastern.

Thank you and PEACE



## Good Organizing Not Only Works, It Wins: a message from People’s Action

Most of us on the UUJEC board get a lot of e-mail newsletters, and the subject line of a recent e-mail from People’s Action caught my attention: *Yes, We Won*. That was not exactly my sense after Tuesday, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>, so I opened the e-mail, and found a list of victories:



- ◆ Down Home North Carolina broke the Republican supermajority in the state’s legislature, defended public education, and defeated the Republican candidate for governor, Mark Robinson, a self-avowed “Black Nazi.” How? They knocked on 636,874 doors, and People’s Action’s national volunteer program made 932,000 calls into the state.

- ◆ Missouri Jobs with Justice helped overturn the state’s abortion ban and won Proposition A, a ballot initiative for a \$15 minimum wage and paid sick leave, which won with more than 58% of votes. How? Two years of deep canvassing on the issue.
- ◆ Progressive Maryland helped defeat an initiative (billionaire-backed) to fire half of the City Council in Baltimore, and elected a Black woman, Angela Alsobrooks, to the U.S. Senate.

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## People's Action

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- ◆ Maine People's Alliance defended a Democratic trifecta, electing 2/3 of their endorsed candidates across the state, and reelected Jared Golden to the U.S. Congress, overcoming a MAGA challenger whose out-of-state supporters spent nearly \$10 million to flood the airwaves with attack ads.

It is clear that with organization and persistence, "When we fight, we win!" We encourage folks to check out the People's Action list of allied organizations in your state, as well as contacting your UU State Action Network (these can be found [here](#)), and sending us at UUJEC your thoughts on best practices and local, state, and national actions that have worked and can be models for others to use. Join our forums—each of our task forces has one—for ongoing discussion of our main issues.

Sally Jane Gellert  
| UUJEC cochairperson



Join us in Baltimore  
for GA 2025!

June 18-22, 2025

## UUA Moderator Candidates

On November 11<sup>th</sup>, the candidates for UUA moderator for 2025–2031 were announced. Running are a team of 2 comoderators (**Rev. Kimberly Quinn Johnson and Mr. Bill Young**), and 1 individual moderator (**Ms Natasha Walker**). The choice is interesting: the team includes a current UUA board member and a minister, and the individual joined UUism about 10 years ago and was raised on a Navajo reservation.



UUJEC currently is not making an endorsement. We may or may not do so as we do our own discernment and if the board members choose to look for

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## Letters!

UUJEC gets requests from numerous organizations to sign on to a variety of letters. Independently-active board members also suggest sign-ons for consideration by the UUJEC. Recently, we have signed the following letters

- addressing the climate risks of the **Digital Commodities Act of 2024**,
- to the EPA, from Faiths United and others: **Stop the Texas GulfLink oil export terminal/deepwater port**,
- along with frontline, EJ communities, Tribes and other allies, to **oppose the Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024**,
- to Pres. Biden: End fossil-fuel subsidies as part of **Hurricane Helene relief**
- to the U.K. Prime Minister: **Stop Rosebank Oil Field** in the North Sea (advocates went to court in November to stop this new fossil-fuel project),
- supporting a September 20<sup>th</sup> **youth climate strike** to Tear Down Fossil Fuels!,
- to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): **make energy justice a priority** in in disaster-recovery work,
- opposing the Forest Service's DEIS (draft environmental-impact statement) for amending the national-forest **land-management plan**, which must be modified to make it compliant with Executive Order 14072 to **protect old-growth trees**,
- supporting a Portland, Oregon **renters' bill of rights**,
- to help **stop Shell's Dirty Deal in Nigeria** where the company has long been synonymous with pollution and exploitation
- from the Respect Voters Coalition to **support the ballot-initiative process**, which is being attacked by politicians
- to urge CMS to **include PrEP** in the 2026 Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameter of the ACA risk-adjustment model
- From faith leaders, **endorsing reproductive rights**
- to respect and **support hotel workers** fighting for a new contract

Write icon created by Freepik - Flaticon

## A Voice from the Past: FDR | Continued

One of the many e-mails that went out after the election quoted extensively from Pres. Franklin Delano Roosevelt. His words may be even more meaningful today, when a new generation of "princes" are trying to take control:



"The age of machinery, of railroads; of steam and electricity; the telegraph and the radio; mass production, mass distribution—all of these combined to bring forward a new civilization and with it a new problem for those who sought to remain free.

"For out of this modern civilization economic royalists carved new dynasties. New kingdoms were built upon concentration of control over material things. Through new uses of corporations, banks and securities, new machinery of industry and agriculture, of labor and capital—all undreamed of by the fathers—the whole structure of modern life was impressed into this royal service. . . ."

"It was natural and perhaps human that the privileged princes of these new economic dynasties, thirsting for power, reached out for control over Government itself. They created a new despotism and wrapped it in the robes of legal sanction. In its service new mercenaries sought to regiment the people, their labor, and their property. And as a result the average man once more confronts the problem that faced the Minute Man. . . ."

"The hours men and women worked, the wages they received, the conditions of their labor—these had passed beyond the control of the people, and were imposed by this new industrial dictatorship. The savings of the average family, the capital of the small business man, the investments set aside for old age—other people's money—these were tools which the new economic royalty used to dig itself in.

"Those who tilled the soil no longer reaped the rewards which were their right. The small measure of their gains was decreed by men in distant cities.

"Throughout the Nation, opportunity was limited by monopoly. Individual initiative was crushed in the cogs of a great machine. The field open for free business was more and more restricted. Private enterprise, indeed, became too private. It became privileged enterprise, not free enterprise.

"An old English judge once said: "Necessitous men are not free men." Liberty requires opportunity to make a living – a living decent according to the standard of the time, a living which gives man not only enough to live by, but something to live for.

For too many of us the political equality we once had won was meaningless in the face of economic

## UUA Moderator Candidates | Continued

consensus. Meanwhile, as always, we thank the candidates for being willing to step up, to be vulnerable, and to look to serve our association in a new way. We encourage all UUs to visit both candidates' sites [here](#) and [here](#), and we encourage all congregations/fellowships/societies to have discussions and votes, and to send a full complement of informed delegates to GA, in Baltimore or virtually, this June.

## Health Care under Trump Threats to Medicare & Medicaid and Health Care Privatization



**UU for a Just Economic Community:**

**Healthcare Task Force** now, a universal-healthcare advocate.

The UUJEC Healthcare Task Force is cosponsoring a Web seminar with Radical Elders. Here is their information about the event with Dr. Ana Mali

December 11, 2024—2:00 P.M. U.S. Eastern, 1:00 P.M. Central, 12 NOON Mountain, 11:00 A.M. Pacific.

Trump is going after all health care, heavily affecting elders. We have to be ready to push back, resist and join with all those in our movement who are doing that. We must make sure our movements include elders in their agendas of struggle. To do that, we need to know what they're planning and nobody can better explain that than Dr. Ana Malinow.

Dr. Malinow spent 3 decades working as a pediatrician with immigrant, refugee, and underserved children in Ohio, Texas, Pennsylvania, and California before retiring as Clinical Professor of Pediatrics from the University of California San Francisco School of Medicine. She is past president of Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP) and has been featured on national and international media on healthcare reform and the stealth privatization of traditional Medicare. She is currently a lead organizer for National Single Payer and The Movement to End Privatization of Medicare.

She is the perfect person to brief us and this is something you shouldn't miss. Ana will speak for about a half hour and then we'll all ask questions and make comments. Register [here](#).



## FDR

inequality. A small group had concentrated into their own hands an almost complete control over other people's property, other people's money, other

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## A Voice from the Past: FDR

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people's labor—other people's lives. For too many of us life was no longer free; liberty no longer real; men could no longer follow the pursuit of happiness.

"Against economic tyranny such as this, the American citizen could appeal only to the organized power of Government. The collapse of 1929 showed up the despotism for what it was. The election of 1932 was the people's mandate to end it. Under that mandate it is being ended.

"The royalists of the economic order have conceded that political freedom was the business of the Government, but they have maintained that economic slavery was nobody's business. They granted that the Government could protect the citizen in his right to vote, but they denied that the Government could do anything to protect the citizen in his right to work and his right to live.

"Today we stand committed to the proposition that freedom is no half-and-half affair. If the average citizen is guaranteed equal opportunity in the polling place, he must have equal opportunity in the market place.

"These economic royalists complain that we seek to overthrow the institutions of America. What they

really complain of is that we seek to take away their power. Our allegiance to American institutions requires the overthrow of this kind of power. In vain they seek to hide behind the Flag and the Constitution. In their blindness they forget what the Flag and the Constitution stand for. Now, as always, they stand for democracy, not tyranny; for freedom, not subjection; and against a dictatorship by mob rule and the over-privileged alike. . . ."

"There is a mysterious cycle in human events. To some generations much is given. Of other generations much is expected. This generation of Americans has a rendezvous with destiny.

"In this world of ours in other lands, there are some people, who, in times past, have lived and fought for freedom, and seem to have grown too weary to carry on the fight. They have sold their heritage of freedom for the illusion of a living. They have yielded their democracy.

"I believe in my heart that only our success can stir their ancient hope. They begin to know that here in America we are waging a great and successful war. It is not alone a war against want and destitution and economic demoralization. It is more than that; it is a war for the survival of democracy. We are fighting to save a great and precious form of government for ourselves and for the world."

## Senate Judiciary Holds Hearing on Credit-Card Fees

Info from the Institute for Local Self-Reliance

One issue that affects almost all of us is credit-card fees. The customer rarely sees these invisible costs, but every vendor pays a percentage of every credit-card transaction to the card company (Visa and MasterCard dominate the market, controlling more than 80%). That 6¢ on your \$2.00 coffee and 60¢ on your \$20.00 dinner add up—businesses report credit card fees being one of their highest expenses. On November 19<sup>th</sup>, the Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing on the subject, which would be addressed by the Credit Card Competition Act.

Aaron Lifford, a ski-shop operator in Colorado, points out that with fewer and fewer customers paying in cash, their credit-card processor makes more in a year than any single staff member. Others point out that credit-card fees divert money from reinvesting in their business, prevent them from hiring new employees or improving benefits, or limit their philanthropic efforts in the community. Some businesses pass the fees along to their customers, and new legislation in some states is likely making that more common: New Jersey laws require most businesses to accept cash and limits the credit-card fee charged to customers to

"My shop spends **tens of thousands** on credit card fees every year with fewer and fewer customers paying with cash. It's a tough pill to swallow when I see that our credit card processor gets paid more in a year than any single staff member gets paid, including me."

Aaron Lifford – Rocky Mountain Ski + Sport  
COLORADO

**CONGRESS: IT'S TIME TO PASS THE  
CREDIT CARD COMPETITION ACT**

**NSGA**

**SMALL  
BUSINESS  
IRISING**

**NSSRA**

Image from Small Business Rising campaign.  
Other logos are from recreational associations.

the amount paid to the processor: pass-through, not profit. Small Business Rising and other groups are calling on Congress to pass the Credit Card Competition Act—and unless and until they do, you may want to think twice about using a credit card when you can.