



UUJEC News & Views: Summer 2026



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General Assembly Started Already?—How to Connect GA: What's Happened So Far

It seems that General Assembly—GA—is starting earlier every year. After our monthly board meeting on the 2nd Tuesday in May, I went to the UUA GA web page, as we understood that May 12th was the day that Actions of Immediate Witness (AsIW) were to be announced.

I was surprised to find that the first preGA event was scheduled for the following week—*What to Expect at GA* was held on **May 19th** this year. By the time this goes to press—scheduled for the first week in June—more events will have already taken place. Remember when we set aside the 3rd week of June for GA, and did just a bit of research before, or connected informally through a GA e-mail list? Maybe just read the GA book on the plane or train to GA (paper, not on laptop computer or phone!)?

Registration and Cost

This year, we were promised an all-virtual GA. That is not what we got. The good news is that there are “Satellite Sites” for the 2nd part of the programming, costing just \$25 to attend (they do not include the business sessions earlier in the week, and must be added onto your registration fee—not a stand-alone option). The bad news from an equality perspective is that those who can add to their adult registration fee of \$350 an additional \$300 (or \$100 if they are willing to claim the “community rate”, or simply by accepting the cost of staying 2 or more nights at one particular hotel [Galt House]) may choose to go to the live, in-person GA—you know, the one we all used to attend before COVID-19, without paying a fee over and above the adult registration rate (or discounted rate based on the age, ministerial status, etc.). Interestingly, as of May 13, the early rate (set to end with the month of April) is still available, but the business-only rate (\$175, one can opt out and attend without payment) is not yet an option.

Our On-Demand Video Programs

Beyond Capitalism, Toward Liberation: A Faithful Case for Ecosocialism

This workshop exposes the existential and spiritual crisis at the heart of climate collapse: capitalism. Drawing from diverse faith traditions and Marxist analysis, it argues collective liberation demands ending exploitation, organizing working class power, and building an ecosocialist world rooted in care, solidarity, and collective flourishing.

Mutual Aid: Love, Equity, and Transformation

Program 34: Mutual aid is a liberating spiritual practice older than organized religion. It brings individuals out of their loneliness to raise consciousness, to heal relationships, and to find a better way of living. This discussion connects liberal religion to mutual aid organizing. Information provided for congregations and clusters. **Moderator:** Terry Lowman **Speakers:** Rev. Kevin Mann, Weyoke Davis, Elias Poore, Rev. Robert Murphy

American Revolution: Work in Progress

Program 45: Meet the moment. This year marks the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Congressional elections are scheduled for November. In this program, scholars and activists discuss the next six months for Unitarian Universalists. What's needed? What's possible? Resources provided for congregations and clusters. **Moderator:** Terry Lowman **Speakers:** Rev. Michael Tino, Dr. Daniel McKanan, Rev. Bob Murphy. Find our programs in the UUA's “EduCenter Directory”: https://www.uua.org/files/2026-03/GA26_EduCenter_Directory.pdf.

Actions of Immediate Witness/On-Demand Videos

Please join our UUJEC web seminar for a preview of GA events.

Thurs., June 11 @ 8 P.M. EDT (7/6/5 p.m.)

See page 3 for details.

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GA Agenda: Business Sessions

Rules of Procedure: These rules are adopted at the first general/plenary session on Sunday, June 14, at 4:30 P.M. EDT just after an in-gathering session. Conversation will again happen on discuss.uua.org.

Budget Hearing: This will be held on Monday, June 15, at 7:30 P.M. EDT. It will be the final session of that day, which begins at 12:30 P.M. EDT. Any budget amendments must be filled by Friday, June 20, at 7:00 P.M. EDT. We recommend all delegates and interested UUs attend this hearing to understand UUA income and expenditures. In past years, questions have been welcomed and explanations are made so that those with a limited financial background can understand; it is a great learning opportunity.

General/Plenary Sessions: These sessions are where the GA's business takes place. Usually, all registered for GA can attend, but only delegates may speak and vote. Much discussion takes place on <https://discuss.uua.org>. By Tuesday, these will all be complete, and there will be a 2-day gap before GA resumes, at the "studio site" for those who can afford it (or have expenses covered), at satellite sites for those who have registered and pay the extra \$25, at a few online open sessions for the general public, or not at all for business-only delegates, who are not invited to pay the \$25 and attend a satellite site.

Declare Independence from the Medical-Industrial Complex

National Single Payer Calls for Change

National Single Payer (NSP) says, "On this 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, we declare it is time for the people to rise up, organize, take control of the health care system, and run it in the interest of the public instead of in the interest of profit. It's time for comprehensive, universal, national Medicare for All, free from profit!"

Their 4-demand letter welcomes individuals to sign:

"After our repeated petitions have been answered only by repeated injury, we:

- ◆ Demand that our government recognize health care as a human right.
- ◆ Demand the elimination of private health insurance and the banning of for-profit delivery of care.
- ◆ Demand the enactment of a publicly financed, national single payer program that provides comprehensive coverage to everyone from cradle to grave and the passage of improved H.R 3069 Medicare for All, free from profit.



Investing According to One's Values

We know that folks are interested in investing with their values: we'd rather not keep our money in a bank that finances big fossil-fuel projects, we'd like to stay away from certain industries and industrial practices: often guns or the military, but also possibly deforestation, prison suppliers, tobacco, DEI resistant, and more. Whatever your social-justice issue, we suggest that you start your research at <https://investyourvalues.org/>, As You Sow's site at which you can find funds that suit your particular interest. They note that they are not an investment advisor, but they do provide information on holdings of a large number of funds. If your concern is whether your bank invests in fossil fuels, one place to look is <https://bank.green>, an organization started in 2020 by individuals working to build awareness of the climate crisis, who had not previously considered where they were holding their own funds. They also are an information site, not offering financial advice.

UUJEC Annual Meeting

Keynote Speaker: Danny Caine, ILSR.org

Sat., July 11 @ 2 P.M. EDT (1P.M/12/11 a.m.)

- ◆ Demand that health care delivery be transformed from profit-seeking ventures into services organized to serve the people of our country, a system in which all caregivers are freed from corporate control."

Our statement, as we signed as an organization:

For too long, insurance companies have put their profits ahead of the needs of the insured clients who trust their ability to access medical services as needed. From medicine as a profession, it has become a business, and too often a ruthless one. It is time to put the needs of policy-holders above those of shareholders and executives whose compensation is based on Wall Street ratings. People over profit!

The Congressional Budget Office estimated that Medicare for All would save our health care system \$650 billion a year¹. Further, researchers at Yale University have estimated that Medicare for All would save 68,000 lives a year.

Here is an [interview by Margaret Flowers](#), host of *Clearing the FOG*, with Dr. Ana Malinow of NationalSinglePayer.com about the [Declaration of Independence campaign](#), leading up to a national town hall this Oct. 14.

¹<https://tinyurl.com/madnebnz>

UUJEC Web Seminar: GA AIW, On-Demand Workshops

June 11th: Proposed AIW & On-Demand Programs at GA 2026

UUJEC's Peace, Equity, and Climate (PE&C) Task Force invites you all to attend and participate in this June's pre-GA offering. Our monthly webinars are a great resource to UU congregations and part of our contributions to UUism's collaborative efforts to address climate justice.

Deb Cruz will talk about the AIW proposal *Defend*

Against the Assault on Environmental Protections: Public Lands Rules and the Endangerment Finding. Rev. Bob Murphy will discuss 2 on-demand GA videos, *Mutual Aid: Love, Equity, and Transformation* and *American Revolution: Work in Progress*, and Rev. Gregory Stevens will talk about his program, *Beyond Capitalism, Toward Liberation: A Faithful Case for Ecosocialism*, presented by UUs for Ecosocialism.

Already there have been a by-law miniassembly and the introductory "What to Expect at GA" session, so things are moving apace—join us to get caught up!

Automatic Draft Registration? What Could Go Wrong? Government Attempts to Undo a Victory of Quiet Mass Resistance

[WagingNonviolence.org](https://wagingnonviolence.org) has a disturbing article by Edward Hasbrouck, published on May 19, about the status of the military draft in the U.S.A. Young men achieved a quiet victory, decades in the making, when the compulsory registration for a draft was ended by Congress, to go into effect this December.

Since 1980, young men turning 18 have been required to register for a draft, but for 45 years, many have not done so. "This spontaneous, silent resistance," Mr. Hasbrouck writes, "has been sustained by generations of young people for 45 years, during which there has been essentially no visible or organized anti-draft movement."

Congress, unwilling to accede to the will of the people, has given the Selective Service a second chance, enabling the agency to use information from other federal agencies to involuntarily, "auto-

matically", register 18-year-old men (and presumably track their address until they turn 26).

Think about this: any interaction with a federal agency puts one on the list. Noncitizens can be drafted, so the Selective Service will want ICE records of immigrants, with or without legal documents. The draft is only of males, which the Service defines as sex assigned at birth—would they "need" that information for all young people? What sort of weaponizable database of college-age people would this automatic data-mining create? Under whose control would it be? Please read the full article.

The data-mining will begin this December unless Congress takes action before then to repeal the Military Selective Service Act. A bipartisan bill, S.4537, has also been (re)introduced in the Senate.

Defending Democracy and Free Speech

Last year, we hosted Mark Taylor-Canfield from Democracy Watch News to talk about press freedom. The situation has only gotten worse; this year, Reporters without Borders' Global Press Freedom Index has our country down 7 places from last year (which was bad enough for a country that cites its First Amendment). We are now #64 out of 180; last year we thought 57th place was bad.

The new rating has a number of causes: the Trump administration's attacks on mainstream media and media consolidation are certainly important. Globally, the situation has also worsened; one of the most egregious events was the cancellation of RightsCon, scheduled to be held in Zambia right after Press Freedom Day on May 3rd, in conjunction with a U.N. free-press event. About a week before the event—which includes live and online presentations around the clock for the

better part of 2 full days and nights, and last year was held in Taiwan—the Zambian government told the organizers (who had been working with the government over the past 2 years to plan the conference of thousands of attendees from all over the world) that the event would be "postponed". Access Now, the organizing group, tried to get answers and enable the conference to move forward, but ultimately announced the cancellation "with a heavy heart".

Reportedly, the Chinese government pressured the Zambian government, concerned that Taiwanese activists were planning to attend in person—but as the event was actually held in Taiwan in 2025, that seems to many to leave as many questions as answers.

Interested in this issue? We recommend checking out idabwellsmediadefense.org & www.mediaanddemocracy-project.org/ (no hyphen in link), especially the latter's list of local independent media outlets across the U.S.A.

Letters We Have Signed

UUJEC gets requests from various organizations to sign on to a variety of letters. Independently-active board members also suggest sign-ons for consideration by the UUJEC. Since the Spring '25 issue of *News & Views*, we have supported the following items, mainly through sign-on letters:

- Opposing the **Reconciliation 2.0** bill
- Endorsed the 2026 **Banking on Climate Chaos Report**
- Health Professionals' Sign-on for **Micro-plastics Monitoring**
- Endorsed **Protect Public Lands AIW 2026 Draft**
- **Earth Day 2026** support
- **No Kings Partner** sign-on
- Stop the Monterey Park **data center**
- Letter to Congress **opposing Trump's Iran War funding bill**
- Letter Urging Congress to **Oppose Immunity for Big Oil**
- Non-governmental organization (NGO) statement by Affected Communities and Allies **Working Group for a Nuclear-Free World**
- Letter expressing concerns with **Offshore Carbon Dioxide Injection Rule-making**
- Organizational sign-on to **DOGE Accountability Campaign**
- Opposing the **CERTAIN Act**
- Letter by a coalition of nonprofit organizations and business leaders urging companies to decline to participate in oil and gas leasing in the **Arctic National Wildlife Refuge**
- Sign-on letter to Congress expressing concerns about the **Southern Poverty Law Center Indictment**
- Endorsing **Cross-Border Days of Solidarity**
- Asking the EPA to designate the New Mexico portion of the **Permian Basin** as a **nonattainment area for ozone pollution** and require the State of New Mexico to revise its state implementation plan because of increasing **violations of ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards**,
- Protect Consumers and **Stop Fossil Fuel Industry Profiteering**

Write icon created by Freepik - Flaticon

UUJEC Annual Meeting July 11, 2 P.M. EDT (1 P.M., 12 NOON, 11 A.M. going west) Danny Caine, Institute for Local Self-Reliance

Important Dates for UUJEC & GA

PreGA, GA Schedules, UUJEC meeting

- ◆ May 18: AIW miniassembly: *Defend Against the Assault on Environmental Protections*
- ◆ Business Miniassembly was held on May 19th: find the recording, slides, and other governance info at <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/board/ga-governance> (remove line break from link if there is a problem; hyphen belongs).
- ◆ May 28: Governance at GA miniassembly
- ◆ June 11: UUJEC Preparing for GA web seminar: *AIW, Defend Against the Assault on Environmental Protections: Public Lands Rules and the Endangerment Finding*, and on-demand program presentations
- ◆ June 14–16 Business of the Association (all online)
- ◆ Congregational Study/Action Issue: *Imagining Abolition and Abolition in Practice*
- Monday, **June 15**: Our faith calls us to critique the theology of punishment that has become so prominent. (3:30 – 4:45 P.M. EDT)
- Tuesday's panel (**June 16**) includes leaders who practice abolition in its many variations. (3:30 – 4:45 P.M. EDT).
- ◆ June 17–18: Connection, travel, or personal time
- ◆ June 19–21: Services, learning, and celebration (online and broadcast from the Studio Site in Louisville—some privileged few will be able to attend in person, but as we understand it, there will not be 2-way communication).
- ◆ June 20: Class Conversations GA workshop,
- ◆ July 11: UUJEC Annual Meeting: keynote speaker is Danny Caine from the Institute of Local Self-Reliance.
- ◆ See <https://uujec.net/calendar> for information on June 11, July 11, and all UUJEC events.