

Social Justice Update



Art by A2U2 RE Students
 From The Handy Guide to Shared Values
 By Emily C. Jones

FRIDAY AFTERNOON CALLS FOR ACTION

Friday 2-3 PM at Church

Rooms 7 & 9

FMI email: [Julie Harrison](#)

NEXT SJC MEETING

May 27th at 7PM via
Zoom

For Zoom link go to
Breeze or contact: [Julie Harrison](#)

Youth and Family Outreach (nominated by Sonia Tonelli)

Each week, we share one third of our offering with a local nonprofit to show our support for organizations whose work furthers the values expressed in our denomination's foundation of love.

Since 1986, Youth and Family Outreach (YFO) has provided full-day, year-round early care and education programs for children aged six weeks to five years. Our nonprofit supports families by helping children thrive academically and ensuring caregivers can complete their education and join the workforce. Our mission is to break the cycle of poverty and prepare children for success in school and beyond.

HERO RAT

No one expects to write the words: "hero rat." Magawa, the giant African pouched rat, recently was honored with a statue in Cambodia, where he identified 100 landmines and unexploded bombs before they could cause injury or death to local residents.



COMEDY WILDLIFE COMPETITION

The award for best comedy wildlife photo goes to...



A Community Gathering of Love, Acceptance & Welcoming

Local Music Acts
Loving MultiFaith Leaders
Solidarity & Support for All

pro-trans/LGBTQ+, pro-immigrant,
pro-reproductive rights, pro-gun reform

May 15 6:30-8:30PM
425 Congress St. Portland, ME

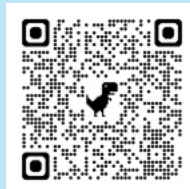


GREATER PORTLAND FAMILY PROMISE UPDATE

As we move into a busy spring season, we wanted to take a moment to thank everyone who donated quarters, gift cards and cooking pots. Because of your support, we were able to provide necessary support.

**UPDATE: ONLY 11 ARRESTED
DURING ICE'S MAINE SURGE
HAD CRIMINAL RECORDS**

Maine Monitor: 4/1/2026



**MAINERS IN NEED OF BASIC
HOUSEHOLD GOODS FIND A
COMMUNITY OVERFLOWING
WITH GENEROSITY**

Christian Science Monitor
March 2026



**GOOD NEWS: NEWPORT,
OREGON SUCCESSFULLY
FIGHTS ICE**

Read this and celebrate the
power of resistance.



FACA – IN MAY WE WILL GET OUT THE VOTE

1. With help from the League of Women Voters of Maine, we will prepare for the upcoming primary election by encouraging and supporting absentee voting among family, friends, and fellow congregants.
2. In partnership with Vote Forward, we'll write to new young voters in PA, providing voting information for the May 19th primary.
3. Partner with MUUSAN on various UU the Vote initiatives for the 2026 mid-term elections.
4. Click [**here**](#) for a complete guide to voting in the upcoming primary election.
5. Great work everyone! - We helped combat disinformation by completing 500 Postcards to Swing States!
6. Some of us will continue to participate in the Bridge Brigade, new hours, Wednesdays and Fridays. 4:00 5:30 p.m. on Deering Bridge
7. See our updates in the weekly Eblast for more specifics. Contact Julie Harrison or Cynthia Marten FMI.



Monument Square Weekly Peaceful Protest with Indivisible

Every Saturday at
11am-12pm

Where: Monument
Square, Portland, ME

Find your people at the weekly, peaceful protest in Monument Square. Bring a cool sign. All who oppose the administration's harmful executive actions, both domestic and international, are welcome! Stand in solidarity for change.

A HUGE THANKS FOR TESTIFYING, ALL THE EFFORT YOU PUT IN MATTERS!

Three Environmental Priorities Coalition bills signed by the governor:

- LD 646 (stormwater study)
- LD 1870 (Climate Superfund)
- LD 2141 (enforcement on bottle bill)

LD 1949 (Energy Fairness Act) - LD 1949 is officially law. HOORAY!

LD 1730 (plug-in solar) - LD 1730 has been signed by the Governor!!

LD 2106, a bill to help restrict ICE's intrusion into sensitive locations is expected to be signed by the Governor

LD 1966 (Cooperative Community Solar) passed the House & Senate, waiting for Governor's signature

IN HONOR OF MOTHER'S DAY

A reminder about the power of the feminine from Kat Armas, published in Sojourners



"Our abuelitas—the women that empire most often discards and overlooks—are the foundation of our formation. They preserve what survives: culture, language, belief, and a wisdom rarely written down yet somehow strong enough to hold everything together."

In 1955, the same year that Dolores Huerta founded the Stockton chapter, all across the United States, Black women were serving as the backbone of the Civil Rights movement. The event that ignited it, the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott, was successful because of the behind-the-scenes organizing of the Women's Political Council, led by Jo Ann Robinson. After being verbally assaulted by a white city bus driver, Robinson made desegregation a central priority."

"Abuelitas, mamas, and tias have always been the foundation of social justice movements. They carry, nurture, and sustain the very people history later names as heroes, holding communities together while others—usually men—stand at podiums. This reality exposes the lie at the center of so many of our narratives: that change is driven by singular men rather than collective care."

If you are holding a print copy of the newsletter, here are the QR CODES for links in this issue

Use a Smartphone camera to hover over the QR code and go to the link.



Only 11 arrested during ICE's Maine surge had criminal records



Maine Voting Guide



Words you don't expect: Hero Rat



WHEN LEADERS LIKE CÉSAR CHÁVEZ FALL, ABUELITAS REMAIN by Kat Armas



Comedy Wildlife

Welcome to the Side With Love Action Center Weekly Update

Each week, we'll share:

A brief analysis of critical issues in this political moment

Immediate actions you can take

Resources to deepen knowledge and strengthen our collective work to side with love

Nothing is inevitable. Justice movements are built by ordinary people who come together to defeat oppression



SIDE WITH LOVE

The Organizing Strategy Team of the Unitarian Universalist Association