

Social Justice Update



Share the Plate - January

Maine Adaptive Sports and Recreation (nominated by Suzanne Federer & Judith Moll)

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 Seven Principles. We hope that Share the Plate will also bring a greater awareness to the community of Allen Avenue UU Church and Unitarian-Universalist values.

SJC will be sponsoring a letter writing campaign for National Popular Vote Jan 14th

Social Justice Committee is collecting diapers for Family Promise

Gun Safety Day of Action in Augusta

Jan 3rd, 9 AM
RSVP [Here](#)

Links



Maine Gun Safety Coalition



UUA Common Read



Social Justice Committee Monthly Meeting

January 24th on Zoom



Family Promise Update

Lu and Tony's family are doing well and settling in. Tony is working full time as a cleaner. Lu is doing the same job at different hours with assistance from daycare for the baby who is 9 months old. Julio is thriving in elementary school. Lucas is also very happy at Deering High School and is playing on an indoor soccer team.

We continue to assist them with trips to Project Feed, their monthly phone bill, diapers and laundry. Bev Riola and Jim Mason have been weekly visitors. Emily O'Neill, Celeste Stickney and Mike Luce have provided rides and coordination.

We will continue to collect diapers (sizes 3-6)



The Giving Tree

The giving tree was a wonderful success. All the gifts tags were collected and the gifts delivered. Thanks for all of your generosity!



Additionally, cash donations labeled "Family Promise" could be sent to A2U2 through Breeze, church drop off or snail mail.

Contact [Emily O'Neill](mailto:emily.gagan@gmail.com) (emily.gagan@gmail.com) or [AnneMarie Catanzano](mailto:amc04105@gmail.com) (amc04105@gmail.com) for more information.

Thank you for your continued support.

MUUSAN

MUUSAN is a statewide advocacy and public policy network anchored in our Unitarian Universalist faith and animated by its principles. MUUSAN welcomes as partners and collaborators all those who share our values. We link our 25 Maine congregations and many friends in an active legislative ministry.

DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

Working with the League of Women Voters (LWV) the focus for this year is on Voting Rights, Clean Elections & Campaign Finance Reform. **MUUSAN and the LWV are especially focusing on National Popular Vote.**

LWV supports the use of the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPV) as a way to achieve the goal of the direct popular vote for election of the president until the abolition of the Electoral College is accomplished. Go to the LWV website for more information.

ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES:

The League of Women Voters has learned that last session's bill on joining the National Popular Vote Compact, LD 1578, is coming up for a hearing before the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee in early January. This has been a high priority for MUUSAN for years and we need "all hands on deck" in the coming weeks to make our voices heard.

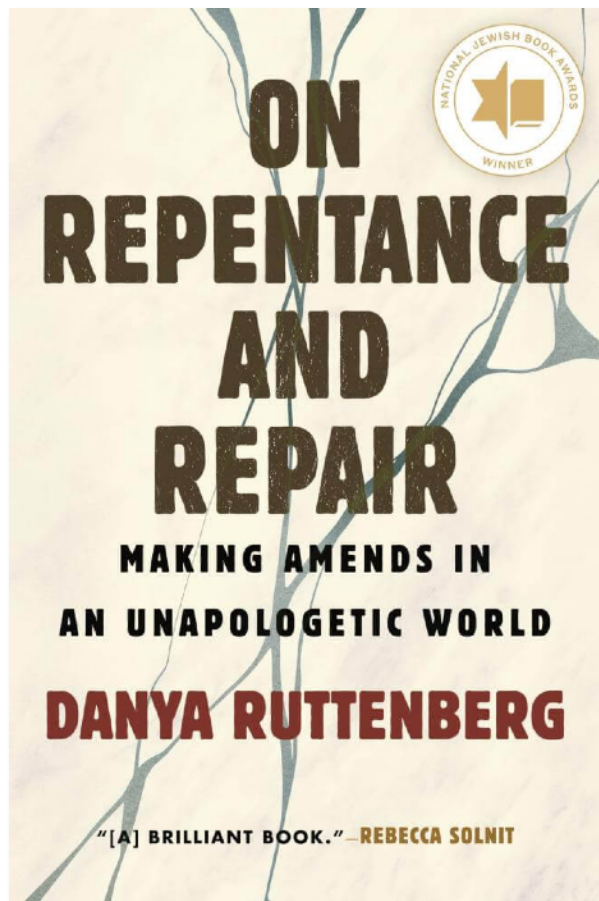
- 1. Postcard writing to support joining the National Popular Vote Compact on January 14th in the foyer directly after the service.**
- 2. You can use this template to draft your email to contact your Maine representatives.**

MUUSAN's Action Teams meet regularly while the Maine State Legislature is in session (this year it will be January to early May), identifies legislation they wish to have MUUSAN advocate for, and plans advocacy actions such as testifying for bills, writing letters to the editor, lobbying legislators, and joining rallies in Augusta.

FOR 2024 WE WILL HAVE 5 DIFFERENT ACTION TEAMS:

- Gun Safety and Violence Prevention (contact Reba Richardson at admin@muusan.org)
- Wabanaki Sovereignty (contact Meret Bainbridge at meretbainbridge@gmail.com)
- Climate Action (contact Jill Linzee at jlinzee@comcast.net)
- Democracy in Action (contact Betsy Williams at bwilliams120@gmail.com)
- Housing and Homelessness (contact Reba Richardson at admin@muusan.org)

You can join more than one team if you wish. If you're interested but not yet sure you want to "join", then send your information to the contact for the Team you're interested in, and they will invite you to join a Team meeting where you can learn more about it.



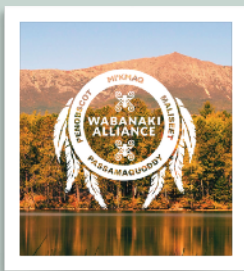
Common Read 2023-24 On Repentance and Repair by Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg

When we do a UU Common Read together, we share in reflection, learning, and action. A UU Common Read can take us on a powerful journey into what it means to be human and accountable in a world filled with both pain and joy.

This Common Read offers a glimpse into one of our faith's foundational sources, Judaism. Readers explore the call to accountability as we follow Rabbi Ruttenberg into a framework for making amends offered by the 12th century Jewish physician and scholar, Maimonides.

On Repentance and Repair invites readers of any faith to explore practices for accountability that can bring us into wholeness and really make a difference in our personal, community, and national relationships.

Books will be on sale on Sundays in the foyer beginning in January for \$14. The Social Justice Committee will lead the three-part discussion group on the book after service on Sundays - 2/11, 2/25, 3/10. FMI contact [Julie Harrison](#).



WABANAKI ALLIANCE

The Wabanaki Alliance advocates for legislation and policies that improve the lives of Wabanaki citizens and our neighbors around the state, protect and preserve our environment, and honor tribal history and culture. Find our current calls to action click on the picture and learn more about how you can Stand With Wabanaki.

MESSAGE FROM WABANAKI ALLIANCE:

"As 2023 is coming to a close, we want to lift up all of the amazing moments that made this year a successful one. We passed Question 6 by a huge margin, we had legislative wins, and so many people came together again and again to rallies, lobby days, and more, all in support of the inherent sovereignty of the Wabanaki Nations." To read more, you can visit our Year in Review [here](#)