

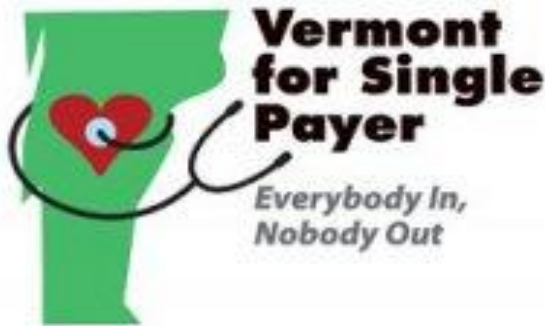


Social Action Chronicle



An Occasional Publication of the Social Action Committee
of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington, Vermont
May 2010

WHY SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE FOR VERMONT?



SOCIAL ACTION FORUM TO HIGHLIGHT DR. MARVIN MALEK ON MAY 16

Physicians for a National Health Plan says “Currently, the U.S. health care system is outrageously expensive, yet inadequate. Despite spending more than twice as much as the rest of the industrialized nations (\$8,160 per capita), the United States performs poorly in comparison on major health indicators such as life expectancy, infant mortality and immunization rates. Moreover, the other advanced nations provide comprehensive coverage to their entire populations, while the U.S. leaves 46.3 million completely uninsured and millions more inadequately covered. The reason we spend more and get less than the rest of the world is because we have a patchwork system of for-profit payers.” The recent congressional Health Bill did not address this aspect of health care.

Dr. Malek, an outspoken Barre physician, recognizes the benefits that single payer health care would have for everyone in Vermont: physicians, employers, taxpayers and anyone who uses the health system. He will be speaking at a Social Action Forum at First UU on Sunday, May 16, at 12:30 to share with us some of the studies that have been done to support the idea that we can save a tremendous amount of the crippling costs of health care by moving to this form of paying for health care.

Come and hear Dr. Malek’s ideas and join the conversation.



HUNGER IN BURLINGTON DISCUSSED AT SOCIAL ACTION FORUM

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has ranked Vermont as the 6th hungriest state in the country. At the April Social Action Forum, Ginger Hobbs and Rosanne Greco highlighted the tremendous number of Burlington residents who are falling through the cracks in the “system.” Ginger told of the tough life many people in our community are having and how JUMP, the Joint Urban Ministry Project, a combination of more than 25 faith communities, is working together to try to help with some of these problems. She told stories of the people she meets like the young man recently released from prison who so wants to make it because he has a young son whom he wants to support and for whom he wants to be a role model. Or the grandmother who had taken in her grandchildren because her son is in prison. She hadn’t received any help and didn’t know how she could manage. JUMP gave her food and referrals. Whatever help we give makes a direct difference in this community. JUMP needs funds to prevent utility shut-offs this summer and shelves stocked with food bags, baby formula and baby food. It needs our help to continue to be a place where friends, family and neighbors can go when their most basic human needs are at risk. If you are looking for a place to contribute to our community, ask Ginger about becoming a volunteer.

Rosanne highlighted her work with the Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf suppers. The Food Shelf provides emergency meals at the Soup Kitchen. On Sunday nights when UVM is in session, a group of student volunteers operates the program, and when they are away on vacation, First UU steps in to fill the need. Roddy O’Neil Cleary spearheaded our initial involvement and Suzie DeBrosse, Aimee Hutchins-Cronin, and Rosanne keep our involvement strong. They solicit volunteers to cook, pick up donated foods from local eateries, serve and clean-up. Watch for sign-up sheets on the Social Action bulletin board and add your name.

TAMMY FLETCHER TO HIGHLIGHT BENEFIT FOR HAITI



Richard Kemp has organized a wonderful evening of song with Tammy Fletcher to help establish a micro bank in Haiti. This concert will be held on May 22 at 7:00 P.M. at First UU. Tickets will cost \$20 and can be purchased through the Flynn Box-office.

In 1976 the Grameen Bank was established in Bangladesh by Professor Muhammad Yunus, Head of the Rural Economics Program at the University of Chittagong. In 2006 the Nobel Peace Prize was divided into two equal parts: to Muhammad Yunus and Grameen Bank for their efforts to create economic and social development from below. The bank operates today in many countries around the world.

The idea behind micro banks is to lend small amounts of money to people who can present a sound business plan and indicate that they have the skills to follow their plans, but because of lack of collateral, cannot get loans from traditional banks. There are many stories about how lives have been changed and, indeed, how whole communities have changed because of these micro banks.

Here's a chance to have a delightful evening and to help with the reconstruction of Haiti.

The **Social Action Chronicle** is published by the Social Action Committee of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington, Vermont. Its contents do not necessarily represent the entire Society.

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Editing and layout: Jeanne Parsley

JOIN UUSC FOR TWO WEEKS THAT JUST MIGHT CHANGE YOUR LIFE

Freedom Summer: A Civil Rights Journey 2010

UUSC is excited to announce the 2010 Freedom Summer: A Civil Rights Journey, an inspiring intergenerational trip that will take you to sites of significance in the U.S. civil rights movement.

From July 10-17, 2010, participants will travel by bus, from Atlanta, Ga., to the historic cities of Birmingham, Montgomery, and Selma, Ala. There, we will meet and hear directly from some of the courageous people who worked to desegregate schools, register new voters, and bring an end to racial discrimination in the United States.

Along the way, we will learn about the progressive, nonviolent organizing techniques used by civil rights activists and how they are still being used today to advance issues such as workers' rights, immigrant rights, and gay rights.

The cost, including hotel, meals, museum admissions, workshops, and local transportation, is \$800 per person.

Location: Atlanta, Birmingham, Selma, and Montgomery

For ages: Intergenerational, ages 14+

Dates: 07/10/2010 - 07/17/2010

Participation fee: \$800

Please note: Participants are responsible for providing their own transportation to and from Atlanta, Ga.

For information contact: 617-868-6600 option 2

Building Justice 2010

Housing is a fundamental human right. Pick up a hammer and help renovate a home for one family while learning and reflecting about the causes of poverty and homelessness. See how groups like the Hope Community created and implemented a vision for a neighborhood where most had little hope.

Join youth and adults from all over the country for UUSC's Building Justice, a weeklong work camp in Minneapolis. Participants will engage in light construction work each day as part of a Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity project. We'll spend our evenings meeting local Unitarian Universalists and others who are organizing to address homelessness and other economic-justice issues.

Volunteers of all skill levels may participate, although knowledge of construction is very helpful. A few non-construction volunteer slots are available. Participants must be at least 16 years old.

The \$800 participation fee includes lodging, meals, museum admissions, workshops, and local transportation. For more information or to sign up, contact UUSC at 800-388-3920, ext. 332.

Location: Minneapolis, Minnesota

For ages: Intergenerational, ages 16+

Dates: 06/12/2010 - 06/20/2010

Participation fee: \$800

Please note:

Participants are responsible for providing their own transportation to and from Minneapolis.

For information contact: 617-868-6600, ext. 332.