



WHUUF Social Justice Newsletter

"When we identify where our privilege intersects with somebody else's oppression, we'll find our opportunities to make real change." -- [Ijeoma Oluo](#)

January, 2023

Important Dates to Remember and Reflect

February 1: First Day of Black History Month

February 12: National Freedom to Marry Day

February 20: World Day of Social Justice

February 25: [People Power Revolution](#)

From Wendy Cluse, Social Justice Steering Committee co-Leader:

I've been sitting here for the past few days trying to come up with something to say for this newsletter, the first of 2023. Something poignant, something inspiring, something that tries to make sense of yet another wave of mass shootings and fatal police beatings. But I don't really have the words. I'm stuck. I'm stuck in my paralysis, knowing that these senseless killings won't be the last, and what can I really change anyway? I'm stuck in my fear, in my discomfort that bringing up topics like defunding the police will spark a debate that needs to happen but I don't want to be in the middle of. I'm stuck in my feeling that any actions I do will never be enough. I'm stuck in my overwhelm and exhaustion of trying to do all the things all the time in an extractive capitalist society. I

don't really have the words to start off this new year with hope and excitement. I don't have a rallying cry that can inspire us into collective action. I just don't know what to say, or what to do.

I've begun to embrace this time of year as a time to slow down, take stock, and look inward. It's a challenging practice for me as the world continues to buzz around me at a furious pace in chaotic and devastating ways. I'm thinking less New Year's Resolutions and more New Year's Reflections. How do I want to show up in the world in this new year? And what kind of world am I working towards? What challenges in my own life do I want to start facing and take steps to dismantle? Last summer I took a workshop on abolition created by some amazing folks with UUA and based off the book [Defund Fear](#) by Zach Norris. One of the first exercises we were asked to complete was a reflection on imagination:

"One of the biggest barriers to meaningful, systemic change, is a lack of imagination. We are trained to only see things the way we see them, and do things the way they have always been done. Reflect on an example from your own life a time when your thinking changed. What is something you used to see one way and now see another? What do you think led to that shift in perspective?"

I'll leave that with you to do with as you would like. Perhaps we can all use this time for some reflection, some space to imagine, or an exploration of perspective. If you're feeling like me and are struggling to find the hope in this new year, maybe we can start here and see what blooms.

***If you would like to share something for this newsletter [use this form](#) or email wendycluse@gmail.com*

Social Justice Initiatives and Resources

What's Happening at WHUUF

- Get ready for our Annual Sock Drive beginning mid-January until mid-February!
Socks can be collected in the bin in the foyer at WHUUF. These donations will

be distributed to the underhoused/homeless folks in the area, as well as the Beaverton School District Clothes for Kids organization.

- Purchase tamales to support Western Farm Workers Association! The tamales - made with the help from folks at the DREAMers Resource Center, will be available to order at WHUUF on February 5 before & after service. Cash or check accepted; \$10 minimum donation for half-dozen, \$20 donation for a full dozen - Pork, chicken, and vegan options. Pick up is on February 12 at WHUUF.

Events

- Learn about the [health and life safety risks](#) of the 220-acre aging fossil fuel tank farm that rests on sand right below Forest Park and adjacent to the Linnton neighborhood. Check out these "Rumble on the River" community forum recordings:
 - [Forum 1 \(10/13/22\) recording](#)
 - [Forum 2 \(11/16/22\) recording](#)
 - [Forum 3 \(12/8/22\) recording](#)
- Attend the [Portland Jobs with Justice Faith Labor Breakfast](#) on February 21st, 7:30 - 9am at St. Andrew Catholic Church in Portland. Tickets are \$25.
- Don't miss [SW Hope 2023](#) going on from February 26 - April 13! Food collections, Dine Out to Donate nights at participating restaurants, Empty Bowls fundraiser, and a 5k run all to support Neighborhood House.

Petitions & Actions

- Sign [this petition](#) and let Congress know you support the Environmental Justice for All Act.
- Tell Florida lawmakers to [support the teaching of AP African American Studies](#) in school!
- Learn about the [efforts to defend the Weelaunee Forest in Atlanta](#) - sign a letter in support and find out other ways to stand in solidarity with those protesting the development of "Cop City."
- Call your US Senators and Representative to tell them you are against Biden's Asylum Ban! Instructions and script can be [found here](#).

Volunteer Opportunities

- Volunteer with [Unidos Bridging Community](#) to lead and assist students preparing for their citizenship exam. Classes are held once a week February - April in Newberg. Spanish language skills are helpful but not required. [Sign up here!](#)
- Join Next Up, ACLU, and Oregon League of Conservation Voters for a [letter writing workshop](#) on February 13 from 6-8pm. Learn about [SB 579](#), which would guarantee the right to vote for those incarcerated in Oregon. Then write letters to folks on the inside about the legislation and the campaign. Training will be provided; this is an in person event.
- Attend a training February 7th from 4-5:30pm with UUA's Side with Love on how to organize support for those who are arrested as a conscientious form of protest. "The more we show up on the frontlines fo justice movements, the more we risk arrest, incarceration, and prosecution. The sustainability of UU activism...well may depend upon the capacity of UU entities to provide a spectrum of support of those at the frontlines." [Download the toolkit and register for the training here.](#)

Resources

- Read this article by Patrick Darrington titled ["Prophet of Discontent" Looks at MLK's Criticism of Capitalism and Militarism](#)
- [Sign up for "28 Days of Black History"](#) - a once-a-day newsletter during the month of February that focuses on centering the voices of those marginalized and overlooked in history. Includes action items and topics for discussion.