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March 2016: Get Ready for Democracy Spring! April 2-18

Dear Friends,

We're hearing from UUs all around the country who are playing a leading role and mobilizing to be part of [Democracy Awakening](#) and [Democracy Spring](#), **April 2-18**. These two broad coalitions have joined together to stand up for voting rights and to get big money out of politics.

We know that we cannot build Beloved Community without justice and without democracy.



We know that our progress on changing policies related to racial, immigrant, economic, environmental justice and more is limited by a campaign finance landscape that allows big money to increasingly shape elections and the policy-making process. The U.S. Supreme Court has eviscerated laws that protected voting rights and put limits on corporate spending in elections. **So we're taking a stand in this 2016 electoral cycle and intervening with a massive sit-in at the U.S. Capitol and days of action.** We're calling for Congress to pass the Congress of Conscience Agenda and to take the Equal Voice for All Pledge. The UUA and our partners at Faithful Democracy have endorsed both actions.

Here's the **Schedule of Events**, followed by the Registration Links to sign-up and Home Hospitality Information.

- On Saturday **April 2nd** at 10 a.m. Democracy Spring is holding a rally and launching a march from the Liberty Bell on Independence Mall in Philadelphia to Washington, DC. UUs are part of organizing for the rally and march and providing housing for the marchers along the way.
- The marchers will arrive in Washington on **April 11th** and be part of direct action sit-ins that include risk of arrest through **April 16th**. Over 2,000 people nationwide have already signed up to risk arrest. Non-violent direct action and civil disobedience training will be provided to all who participate.
- On Saturday, **April 16th** from 1-6 pm, [All Souls Unitarian Church](#), Washington, DC is hosting the Democracy Awakening Teach-In which will include workshops and direct action training. (For those arriving in the evening there will be a Democracy Forum from 7-9 pm at [St. Stephen's Church](#).)
- On Sunday, April 17th there will be a massive rally in front of the Capitol, followed by

a march around Congress and a multi-faith service and rally at Union Station. We will gather at 12:30pm at 3rd St. NW in front of the Capitol. *Look for our Standing on the Side of Love banners and wear your Love shirts!*

- Monday **April 18th** is the Congress of Conscience Day of Action – See the agenda for a day of non-violent direct action and advocacy.

Sign up for Democracy Spring at [this link](#), set up especially for UUs so that we can connect with each other!

Sign up for Democracy Awakening by using the [registration form](#) and in the first name field put “UU” and a space before you type your name. You can sign up to be a local volunteer as well. There will be opportunities for phone banking and more.

Both coalitions’ websites have all kinds of information on logistics, housing, and transportation.

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice in the National Capital are also coordinating home hospitality. Email info@uusj.org or call 202-600-9132 for more information.

Can’t come to Washington? You can still be part of local organizing. Democracy Spring has over 40 organizing hubs listed on their site. [Find one near you.](#)

Our UU 5th Principle upholds the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large. We know that this is foundational in order to realize our collective vision for justice. In this movement moment, now is the time to act!

In faith,



Susan Leslie
UUA Congregational Advocacy and Witness Director, on behalf of the
Multicultural Growth & Witness Team

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**Multicultural Growth & Witness
Unitarian Universalist Association**

24 Farnsworth St | Boston, MA 02110 | Phone 617.948.6461 | Fax 617.742.03213
1100 G Street NW; Suite 800 | Washington, DC 20005 | Phone 202.393.2255 | Fax 202.393.5494
socialjustice@uaa.org | website: www.uaa.org/justice

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