Rev's Reflections

Acting

On Sunday, a few of us from UUCSC attended the spring forum of the UU Legislative Ministry of RI. We had the chance to hear from Speaker of the House Joe Shekarchi, Teresa Tanzi representing us in District 34 and a few other legislators working in the state house. They all had different ideas about priorities, especially in regards to protecting the state from the White House's vengeance against "blue states." And there was one thing they all agreed on.

Together, we must protect the people being targeted. Right now they are immigrants (especially those without "green cards") and gender expansive* folks (especially those whose outward presentation challenges the binary of male/female.) We have to fight alongside the people being disappeared in very real ways. Everyone in that room is on the same side.

The day was an affirmation for us at UUCSC, that we've focused our energy since November in the right places.

On the afternoon of Saturday, April 26 we'll be hosting a conference called Beyond the Binary, whose goal is to provide safe space for those of us who are gender expansive, while providing information and resources for those of us who want to be effective allies.

We need help with everything from providing snacks and drinks to helping check-in participants. Please contact Cathy Solomon if you can help in any way.

And this Friday, April 14, we'll be observing our annual Tenebrae service on Good Friday. We intersperse biblical readings of the murder of Jesus with secular stories about modern-day suffering of injustice. This year, four of those stories have begun unfolding over the last three months.

Neither one of these events will change the world or stop any oppression directly, but they will help us remember what we are called to do as like-hearted individuals. We'll get to be with our allies, in our fullness and our vulnerability, as a reminder that we are not alone in the epic struggles of our times.

In Peace,
Rev Denis

* Gender expansive is an umbrella term for individuals whose gender identity and/or expression expands beyond traditional gender norms and expectations. It encompasses a range of identities, including but not limited to, non-binary, gender-fluid, and transgender individuals, as well as cisgender individuals who don't conform to stereotypical gender roles.