



# May 2023 Newsletter

**Theme: DE-MOCK-RACY!**

**Quote of the month:** “This session, unfortunately, will go down in history as one of the most divisive and cruel ever seen in Iowa. Over the last four months, Republican politicians poured gasoline on the flames of the culture war by undermining and politicizing our public schools, banning books, and attacking the freedoms of parents and the LGBTQ community. Republicans spent this session protecting political insiders while leaving the public in the dark and eroding transparency and accountability in state government.”

*Zach Wahls, Iowa Senate Minority Leader 5/5/23 Member of UU Society, Coralville*

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## COULD IT BE A PIPE DREAM?

Jane Shuttleworth

In a [Carbon Pipelines 101 Presentation](#) by Jess Mazour, Conservation Program Director of the Iowa Sierra Club, the Iowa Lakes UU Fellowship learned six reasons to oppose carbon capture (CO<sub>2</sub>) pipelines, and also why a diverse coalition of people across Iowa joined together to oppose them – from farmers to environmentalists, indigenous groups to Republican, Democrats and Independents.

Impressively, many members inspired by the presentation sent public comment postcards to the Iowa Utilities Board, contacted the Iowa Senate, and researched how to get their local school

boards, communities, and other entities to file objections with the Iowa Utilities Board. Because the legislature was still in session, they were urged to contact Iowa Senators and ask them to hold Senate hearings on a bill prohibiting eminent domain in construction of the pipeline. That bill, HF 565, successfully passed in the Iowa House with 73 ayes to only 20 nays. Unfortunately, the same did not happen in the Senate. The bill died, but not the fervor by UUs to rally against the potential harm of CO2 pipelines.

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## **The Making of a Climate Action Warrior** **Miriam Kashia**

Thursday, May 25 at 5 PM PDT, 6 PM MDT, 7 PM CDT & 8 PM EDT

To register for Zoom, [click here](#)

To watch on Facebook, [click here](#)

Miriam will share her experiences as a climate activist and some adventures and lessons learned along the way. She'll share her mottos: "Action is the antidote to despair," and "Everything we do matters" and how they have guided her life as an activist.

Miriam Kashia is 80. She's been an honor student, a struggling single parent who finally finished her undergraduate degree at age 42 and then went on to earn 2 master's degrees and became a psychotherapist. Add a stint in the Peace Corps in Namibia, Africa at 62, and for the past 10 years, a climate activist.

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## **ALL ABOARD FOR CLEAN WATER**

**Sally Hartman**

Iowa Senator Dan Zumbach introduced a bill that would take away funding from nitrate sensor data collection. These sensors detect problems, measure voluntary programs by farmers, and help municipalities plan for water treatment strategies. They also are essential to Iowa's agreement to not contribute to the "Dead Zone" in the Gulf of Mexico. Governor Reynolds has not signed the bill into law.

Dan Zumbach allegedly used some influence at the University of Iowa to prevent U of I researcher Chris Jones from reporting water quality findings on his blog. Dan Zumbach talked to the DNR about his son-in-law's feedlot permitting process, which resulted in requirements way, way too lenient and that endangers Bloody Run, a trout stream. Mr. Zumbach and company lost in court and got a drubbing from the judge who decided on the case. Score one for environmental groups and the trout!

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## **LGBTQ+ TASK FORCE FORMS FOR JUSTICE!**

**Terry Lowman**

Because this proved to be a legislatively disastrous year of injustice for the Iowa LGBTQ+ community, IUUWAN is establishing a justice-seeking LGBTQ+ Task Force. This new Task Force may not be able to fix all injustices, but we can work toward change doing two things. First, we can endeavor to create a safe harbor for the LGBTQ+ Community, and second, we can assess our Welcoming Congregation status. Some congregations would benefit from the Welcoming Congregations updating process called Welcome Renewal. Here's [the link](#) to the UU Association of Congregations webpage on maintaining our Welcoming Congregation status.

For the last two years IUUWAN offered *Queer Your Faith*, a monthly LGBTQ+ Sunday service. To expand our reach to the LGBTQ+ Community we're creating a task force. IUUWAN endeavors to find a representative from each congregation to serve on this task force. An ideal candidate is someone on your Worship, Sunday Service or Program Committee. The task force will meet 4-6 times a year, but also we want a congregational contact to make sure we're doing all we can to protect and celebrate Iowa's LGBTQ+ community. This will be a very small commitment. Contact Terry at [terryleelowman@gmail.com](mailto:terryleelowman@gmail.com) for more information.

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## **Pride Celebrations Near You!**

**Kirk Witzberger**

June is Pride month for many communities, and there are many events planned in and around Iowa. Showing up and celebrating Pride at these events is a great way to support the LGBTQ+ community. Now more than ever our presence in Pride events will give our LGBTQ+ youth the message that we are in solidarity as they face attacks from Iowa legislators and those emboldened by those legislators.

Ames	<a href="#">Ames Pride</a>	Sep 30
Ankeny	<a href="#">Ankeny Pride</a>	June 17
Burlington	<a href="#">Pride In The Park 2023 – Burlington Pride</a>	June 24
Cedar Falls	<a href="#">Pride Month Recognition Event</a>	June 1
Cedar Rapids	<a href="#">CR Pride</a>	June 10, July 8
Cedar Valley	<a href="#">Cedar Valley Pride</a>	Aug 25, 26
Coralville	<a href="#">Coralville Pride Festival</a>	September 2023
Council Bluffs	<a href="#">2023 Heartland Pride Festival - Omaha</a>	July 15 in Omaha
Decorah	<a href="#">Decorah Pride</a>	“stay tuned”
Des Moines	<a href="#">PrideFest - Capital City Pride</a>	June 9 – 12
Dubuque	<a href="#">Pride Family Picnic + Block Party</a>	June 3
Fort Dodge	<a href="#">Fort Dodge Pride Festival</a>	June 24
Fort Madison	<a href="#">Riverside Pride</a>	June 15
Humboldt County	<a href="#">Humboldt County Pride and LGBTQ Awareness</a>	June 23
Iowa City	<a href="#">Iowa City Pride</a>	June 17
Mason City	<a href="#">Mason City, IA LGBTQ Pride</a>	July 15
Orange City	<a href="#">Pride Orange City</a>	October 21
Ottumwa	<a href="#">Third Annual Ottumwa Pride Block Party</a>	June 3
Quad Cities	<a href="#">Unity Pride Week</a>	June 2 – 3, 11, 16 – 18
Sioux City	<a href="#">SUX Pride - Sioux City</a>	June 2 – 3
Vinton	<a href="#">First Annual Pride</a>	July 1

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## **This is Not What Democracy Looks like**

**Compiled by Marcia Swift**

“Iowa Senate won’t allow journalists to work in Chamber, in shift from longstanding practice.”  
*Des Moines Register, January 7, 2023*

“In a Stunning Move, Republican legislators in Iowa took a stance against the press and refused press access to the Iowa House of Representatives, a move that has been met with widespread criticism.” *Des Moines Register, January 7, 2022*

“The Iowa Capitol Press Association is canceling its 2023 legislative preview forum as state republican leaders declined to participate in the event that had been held annually for more than 20 years. Governor Kim Reynolds, Republican Senate Majority Leader Jack Whitver and Republican Speaker Pat Grassley all declined their invitations to the Forum.” *Des Moines Register, January 4, 2023*

“Iowa Republicans self-censor debate, citing Supreme Court ruling. Legislative Republicans are not answering some questions from Democrats during debate to avoid their answer being cited in future Iowa Supreme Court rulings.” *Cedar Rapids Gazette, April 18, 2023*

“Republican state lawmakers in Iowa have passed a bill that would limit the state auditor’s access to certain records—a move the auditor says is intended to hamstring the office of the only statewide elected Democrat in Iowa and could put \$12 billion of federal funding to Iowa at risk.”  
*Washington Post, April 27, 2023*

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## **IOWA OPPORTUNITIES FOR UU ACTION**

1. Join the Great Plains Action Society on May 13th at 11:30 AM at the Schwiebert Riverfront Park. Mississippi Summit attendees will join the Quad Cities community for a Walk for River Rights. <https://www.greatplainsaction.org/>

2. Sign and get others to sign the Sierra Club Iowa Chapter petition for [NO CO2 Pipelines in Iowa](#). Tell our decision-makers to reject these projects!
  3. Attend a Side with Love Skill Up session: **May 21** - [What Do Impacted Communities Need - How Would I Know? Led by Rev. Michael Crumpler](#), UUA LGBTQ and Multicultural Programs Director
  4. Contact Kim Reynolds and ask her to use line-item veto to reinstate nitrate sensors so that Iowa nitrate pollution can be monitored.  
<https://governor.iowa.gov/contact-office-governor>
  5. Attend a Webinar May 17 at 6 pm on how UU Congregations can use IRA Funds for clean energy and addressing climate change. [Register Now](#)
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To donate to IUUWAN, join one of IUUWAN's Action Teams (Environmental Justice, or Racial Justice, or LGBTQ+ Equality), or to see the latest Iowa UU News and Events, go to our [Homepage here](#).