



Advocacy & Witness News

Congregational Advocacy and Witness
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“Now Make Me Do It!”

As of press time, the election is still in full swing. The horse race to the finish is still moving fast. But by the time you receive this, we may very well have a new president and Congress already. Regardless of who wins though, we cannot give up the fight.

There is a famous story where President Franklin D. Roosevelt heard a passionate story from a group of activists. He turned to them and said, “You’ve convinced me, now go out there and make me do it.”

It is not enough to just vote the “right people” into office, we must also keep them accountable to their promises made on the trail. This month, we have several resources to help you keep our newly elected officials accountable such as the **Sexuality Education Advocacy Training**, the release of the **Ethical Eating CSAI Resource Guide**, and the entire **Action of the Month Calendar** through June of 2009. Also, the **Rough Draft for the Statement of Conscience: Peacemaking** will be released on November 15th.

Sexuality Education Advocacy Training Dates Announced

The Unitarian Universalist Association, the United Church of Christ, the Union for Reformed Judaism, Advocates for Youth and the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice present the 5th Annual Sexuality Education and Advocacy Training to be held **March 21-24th, 2009** in Washington, DC.

Learn up-to-date facts on comprehensive sexuality education and how to lobby your Congressional Representatives.

Look out for applications on our website: uua.org/SEAT.

Statement of Conscience: Peacemaking

On **November 15th**, the Commission on Social Witness (CSW) will release the rough draft for the Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking.

After nearly three years of studying peace and peacemaking with congregations like yours, the CSW has written a comprehensive statement on the role of Unitarian Universalists in the larger peace community.

On that day, congregational polling on the draft along with space for feedback will open. **We are looking for at least 25% of all the congregations to participate** in this feedback process.

Polling closes February 1st, 2009.

For more information on the Statement of Conscience and the process, please visit uua.org/csw.



“...to love humans is still the only thing worth living for...without that love, you really do not live.”
-Søren Kierkegaard

Calendar

November 4	United States General Election
November 8-9	Tents of Hope
November 11	Veteran’s Day/ Armistice Day
November 20	Transgender Day of Remembrance
November 27	Thanksgiving
December 1	World AIDS Day
December 10	60th Anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Action of the Month: HIV/AIDS
 Please note and post our companion newsletter on the November Action for HIV/AIDS.

December’s Action will be on Peacemaking.

Ethical Eating Resource Guide Launched

This month, the **Resource Guide for the Congregational Study Action Issue on Ethical Eating** will be launched.

This guide will be full of essays, movies, books, and discussion questions to get your community started on talking about ethical eating.

To find this resource, please visit uua.org/socialjustice

Actions of the Month through Summer 2009

Below are the UUA Actions of the Month through summer of 2009. We encourage you to plan your social justice calendar accordingly.

January: Economic Justice/
Living Wage

February: BGLT Justice

March: Gender Justice

April: Environmental Justice

May: Immigration

June: General Assembly

July: GA Follow Up

August: Gulf Coast

Advocacy and Witness Has an Award-Winning Blog!

The Criminal Justice Degrees Guide named our site one of the 100 best civil rights blogs.

Read our reflections on upcoming events and news stories, thoughts on new movements and causes, and reports on exciting progress on national legislation.

<http://uuasocialjustice.blogspot.com>

“For it is not enough to want peace, one must believe in it. And it is not enough to believe in it. One must work at it.”
-Eleanor Roosevelt

Stand on the Side of Love With New T-Shirts

The Holiday Season is quickly on its way. Get your shopping done early by purchasing our Stand on the Side of Love shirts for all your family members.

Order your shirt now to get your shirts by December, they are going fast. Get your favorite activist a shirt for the upcoming year of actions.

Our handsome shirts come in both **adult and children’s sizes.** And are made from pre-shrunk, 100% cotton materials. **Available in all sizes** (From Children’s Small up to XXL).

There is a **\$3/shirt discount for bulk orders,** so order as a congregation! Contact Kat Liu at Kliu@uua.org. If you’d rather place an order by phone, please call at (202) 393-2255 x13.



“One must never confuse error with a person who errs.”

-Pope John XXIII

“I Make myself rich by making my wants few.”

-Henry David Thoreau



Rev. Sinkford Travels to Africa

On November 8, 2008 Reverend William G. Sinkford, President of the UUA, will embark on a pilgrimage to six countries in Africa. The purposes of the pilgrimage are: to meet with colleagues among the **Unitarians and Unitarian Universalists of Africa**, learn from leaders in **Truth and Reconciliation** work in South Africa, including Archbishop **Desmond Tutu**, learn from leaders of social justice and human rights organizations involved in diverse struggles, and visit a **UNESCO World Heritage site** and **witness to the Atlantic Slave Trade**.

Individual UUs and congregations can participate during the journey in a variety of ways: by following **blogposts, reports, news items, photos** and **video** posted, by joining a **Sunday School “web-cast”** in real time with Rev. Sinkford, by using the **“congregational participation” resource** which describes each segment of the journey and the people/organizations Rev. Sinkford will be visiting with, and by participating in the “Propose a Question” contest – Rev. Sinkford will present the most popular questions to people that he meets with.

For more information, please visit <http://www.uua.org/sinkfordafrica>, or contact the UUA’s International Resources Office.