



Advocacy & Witness News

Congregational Advocacy and Witness
 Washington Office for Advocacy
 International Resources Office

(617) 948-4607
 (202) 393-2255
 (617) 948-6412

APRIL 2009

President Obama Asks for Our Advice

Last month, President Obama’s Chief of Staff, Rham Emanuel, and director of Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, Rev. Josh DuBois, stopped by the office to see what ways the UUA was supporting justice and progress in the United States and the World.

We showed the staffers our **Actions of the Month** on **Environmental Justice** and **Comprehensive Immigration Reform**.

They were interested in our work on **BGLTQ Equality**. And wanted to learn more about the **Social Justice and Advocacy Trainings** we offer.

The **workshops we are offering at GA** were particularly exciting for them. Overall, DuBois and Emanuel were pleased with the work of the UUA and look forward to working with us more in the future.

Oh, and Happy April Fools Day!

BGLTQ Equality Actions- Calling All Ministers!

Ministers and other clergy members have two exciting opportunities this spring to come to Washington, DC and raise their voices for BGLT Equality.

Join clergy and laypeople at the **National Center for Transgender Equality Lobby Day April 26-28**. The **2009 Human Rights Campaign Clergy Call** also takes place **May 4-5**.

Both events prepare faith leaders to speak about transgender rights and include lobby days in support of including gender identity and sexual orientation in the categories protected by the new Employment Non-Discrimination Act soon to be reintroduced into Congress. Write or call Orelia Busch (obusch@uua.org or ext. 12) at the UUA Washington Office for details.

April Action of the Month— Environmental Justice

April is a time of growth and renewal. As we gather in recognition of the Earth and the interdependent web of all existence, we work to make sure all the inhabitants have safe access to the resources they need.

We ask you to work this month for environmental justice by: hosting an **Earth Sunday Service**, supporting **environmentally friendly legislation**, and advocating for **green jobs**. More ideas are available in our April Action of the Month Supplemental or at uua.org/socialjustice.



“The thing about peace work is that the hours are long... but the pay is lousy.”
 -Barb Katt

Calendar

April 9-15	Passover
April 12	Easter
April 15	Tax Day
April 16-18	UU-UNO’s Spring Seminar
April 17	National Day of Silence and Solidarity
April 22	Earth Day
April 26- 28	BGLTQ Equality Lobbying Days

Action of the Month: Environmental Justice and Green Jobs

Please note and post our companion newsletter on the April Action for **Environmental Justice and Green Jobs**

May is Immigrant Justice.

Join our Newsletters

The UUA A&W Team has three newsletters to help you keep updated on important social justice opportunities. We would like to invite you to join our newsletters.

- **Advocacy News (A*News)**- Track legislation moving in Congress
- **Social Action Chair News (SAC News)**- Learn opportunities for congregation social justice
- **International News (iNews)**- Receive announcements on UU international justice issues and resources.

To join our newsletters, please visit uua.org/socialjustice

GA '09 Workshops and Pre-GA Event

Are you coming to General Assembly this year? Please don't forget to join the Advocacy and Witness Team's workshops:

- **Welcoming Our Neighbors: The Path to Immigration Reform**
- **Environmental Work is Justice Work**
- **UU Secretaries of State on Strengthening Democracy Now!**

We are very excited about workshops and would love have you participate.

Please don't forget our Public Witness event on Friday:

Valuing ALL Families — An Interfaith Community Witness Event
Standing on the Side of Love with Immigrant Families

And visit our booth at #521 for fun prizes!

Get to General Assembly in time for a **Pre-GA gathering for UU social justice makers on June 24th, at 2:00-:500 p.m.**

We will offer training, best practice case studies, and time for networking on issues. Come meet with UUA social justice staff and other UUs working for social justice around the country.

We will send out more information and details as we get closer to GA.

To register, write to Audra Friend at afriend@uua.org.

PLEASE NOTE: You do NOT have to arrive a day early to make the Pre-GA Gathering

Stand on the Side of Love With UUA T-Shirts

Sunshine! Warm weather! T-Shirts! With spring here, it is time for a new t-shirt to spruce up your warm weather wardrobe with our **Standing on the Side of Love Shirts**.

Get yours in time for GA in June!

Our handsome shirts come in both **adult and children's sizes**. And are made from pre-shrunk, 100% cotton materials. **Available in all sizes**. Sweatshop free and union made.

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.



“Well, you lose some...and you lose some”

-Sister Marjorie Tuite

“I am for a nuclear freeze. Even in the summertime.”

-Andy K. Age 5

“Little children and animals don't want war. Only grown ups and crocodiles.”

-Anthony R. Age 10

Plan your Social Justice Trainings for '09 and '10 Now is a great time to organize your trainings for the next year!

Congregational social justice leaders often ask: “How can we involve more people in our congregation's social justice programs?”

The basic purpose of a social justice empowerment workshop is for members of a congregation to assess the quality of their social justice program. It is an opportunity for members of a congregation to consider what they are doing as an institution to create a more just and caring world. During the workshop participants reflect upon what they can do as a religious community to put their faith into practice.

A workshop usually takes place over a weekend. Here, you learn how to: form action groups, enable action groups to do effective work, and evaluate the overall social justice program.

Congregations pay a program fee based on the size of their faith community. **Now available for clusters!** For more information including costs involved, or to apply, please see: www.uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary/socialjustice/index.shtml