



Advocacy & Witness News

Congregational Advocacy and Witness
Washington Office for Advocacy

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SEPTEMBER 2009

Justice-Making 2009-2010: An Invitation

We can accomplish so much more by working together than we can on our own. “Partnership, partnership, partnership” is a mantra for UUA justice staff, and we invite you to join us in whatever ways make sense for your congregation.

Specifically, we encourage you to link your social justice projects to the collective organizing efforts of the UUA Washington Office for Advocacy, Standing on the Side of Love Campaign, UU state advocacy networks, and other UU congregations!

To be effective we need a strong, consistent UU voice on Capitol Hill, partnered with powerful grassroots action. We can do this by tying your work—whether it’s Gulf Coast service teams, food banks and soup kitchens, Our Whole Lives classes, Green Sanctuaries, Welcoming Congregations, or other Action Task Forces—with national organizing efforts.

Throughout the year, UUA staff will provide information and resources on how and when to get engaged. At minimum we’ll provide actions alerts and talking points; for large scale efforts you might also expect worship resources, intergenerational activities, and other hard-copy campaign materials. **Please know that we screen our campaigns very carefully to ensure that they will be effective!** This includes considerable vetting of the cultural and political landscape, timing of the campaign, available resources (including partnerships), and the role and impact of our specifically Unitarian Universalist voice. The UUA Social Justice priorities for the year include:

- Comprehensive immigration reform;
- Economic justice with a focus on living wage;
- Environmental justice;
- Equal rights for bisexual, gay, lesbian and transgender people; and
- Reproductive justice with a focus on sexuality education.

If you’re working on one or more of these issues, we want to hear from you! What are you doing? How can we help? (socialjustice@uua.org) Are you willing to partner with us on collective advocacy campaigns? Visit uua.org/socialjustice to learn more about UUA priorities and campaigns. Check the calendar for upcoming major events. Sign up for our news lists. Visit www.uustatenetworks.org to connect with your SAN. Let’s work together!



“Our civilization cannot survive materially unless it is redeemed spiritually.”
- Woodrow Wilson

Calendar

Sept. 1	Labor Day
Sept. 19	Rosh Hashanah
Sept. 21	UN International Day of Peace
Sept. 22	Autumnal Equinox
Sept. 28	Yom Kippur
Oct. 11	National Coming Out Day

Sign up for Advocacy News, Social Action Chair News, and issue specific lists via our website:
www.uua.org/socialjustice

Connect with your UU State Network
www.uustatenetworks.org

Stand Up for Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian and Transgender Equality Across the Nation!

This fall, there are three important ways that you can stand up for equal rights for bisexual, gay, lesbian and transgender (BGLT) folks in your own community and nationwide.

1. Come Out for Equality on National Coming Out Day, October 11, 2009. Organize an event at your congregation and collaborate with local BGLT organizations to end marriage discrimination. Stay tuned to Standing on the Side of Love (<http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org>) for more information
2. Visit your elected officials and lobby for full equality for BGLT persons in all matters governed by civil law in all 50 states. The toolkit from Equality Across America has all of the information you need for successful lobby visits and great tips for organizing locally (<http://equalityacrossamerica.org/docs/CCHToolkit.pdf>).
3. Join us Oct 11th in Washington, DC for the National March for Equality! The Unitarian Universalist Association has officially endorsed the March, and the president of the Association, Rev. Peter Morales, will be preaching at All Souls Church, Unitarian, that morning. The UUA Washington Office will be coordinating gathering places for both the March and Rally.

Please note: The emphasis for October's actions is local organizing, so don't break the bank coming to D.C.—get involved in your community!

How will you and your congregation stand up for equality? Please contact Orelia Busch (obusch@uua.org; 202-393-2255 x12) at the UUA Washington Office for Advocacy to let us know. We want to hear from you and we want to help!

Social Justice Empowerment Workshops Applications

The UUA Social Justice Empowerment Workshop helps members of a congregation to assess their social justice program by envisioning their potential to be a social justice community, developing deeper understanding about what makes effective social justice, and providing methods to integrate social justice into the larger congregational life.

Cluster workshops are now available and held for teams (2 or more people) from area congregations. The cost is \$200 per team (up to 4 people). For teams of 5 or more the rate is \$200 for the first four and an additional \$25 per person for each additional person.

Workshop handbooks are provided by the UUA. Congregations that sponsor cluster workshops can waive the fee in exchange for providing coffee, lunch, and supplies.

We are now accepting applications for fall 2009 and spring 2010!

For more information and to apply, please see: <http://www.uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary/socialjustice/index.shtml> or write to Audra Friend at afriend@uua.org.



The Standing on the Side of Love campaign has taken off with over 5,000 fans on Face book, and congregations across the country are ordering banners, standing on the side of love in worship, in interfaith coalitions, and community partnerships.

Standing on the Side of Love is a public advocacy campaign, initiated by the UUA, on the commitment that no person should be dehumanized through acts of exclusion, oppression, and violence.

We'd love to hear what you are doing and how the campaign can support you, your youth or young adult group, and your congregation as you stand on the side of love.

Connect at www.standingonthesideoflove.org

Call for CSAI Proposals!

Congregational Study/Action Issues (CSAIs) - Congregations and Districts are encouraged to submit proposals for association-wide study/action for 2010-2014. Deadline is October 1, 2009. Go to www.uua.org/csw for more information.