



Advocacy & Witness News

Congregational Advocacy and Witness
Washington Office for Advocacy

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

FEBRUARY 2010

Dates to Remember (and Prepare For)

Feb 14: National Standing on the Side of Love Day, Feb 14th, invites participants to reimagine Valentine's Day. Congregations across the nation will participate in a day of worship and practice acts of love in ways that are meaningful to them. (www.standingonthesideoflove.org/)

March 6-10: End Mountaintop Removal Week - Activists will converge in Washington, DC to lobby their legislators to end the devastating practice of mountaintop removal coal mining. (www.ilovemountains.org/wiw)

March 19-22: Ecumenical Advocacy Days - This annual event brings together progressive religious activists from across the country to most effectively lobby their members of Congress. This year's focus will be on Immigration, and will likely be our biggest action that we take on immigration this year. The UUA is a sponsor and urges all who can to participate. (<http://advocacydays.org/>)

March 22: Sex Education Advocacy Call-In Day - Coinciding with our annual Sex Education Advocacy Training (SEAT), ask your legislators to pass the REAL Act and fund the most comprehensive sex education possible. We urge all who can to participate. (www.uua.org/socialjustice/issues/healthfamily/comprehensivesex/index.shtml)

Resources for Congregational Task Forces & Committees

Does your congregation have a Green Sanctuary/Environmental Justice Task Force? A Task Force on Immigration? An LGBT Rights Committee? A Reproductive Rights group? A Finance Committee interested in Socially Responsible Investing? An anti-racism task force?

If so, we have resources for you! The UUA has staff that provide resources and opportunities for UUs to take collective action on global warming, immigration reform, GLBT equality, comprehensive sex ed and more. Task Force chairs (and others) can subscribe to specific UU Justice Action Lists that address these issues. These broadcast only lists are published on a monthly basis along with special alerts about upcoming legislation. To subscribe go to www.uua.org/socialjustice and click on "UU Justice Action News Lists" (<http://salsa.democracynaction.org/o/1272/t/4696/signUp.jsp?key=1357>) at the bottom of our home page. Just fill out the form and check the issue(s) you want to receive information and resources on from UUA Advocacy & Witness.



"I have consistently preached that nonviolence demands that the means we use must be as pure as the ends we seek. ...it is wrong to use immoral means to attain moral ends. But now I must affirm that it is just as wrong, or perhaps even more so, to use moral means to preserve immoral ends."

- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Calendar

Feb. 12	Freedom to Marry Day
Feb. 14	Stand. Side of Love Day
Feb. 16	Presidents Day
Mar. 1	Social Justice Award Deadlines
Mar. 6 - 10	End Mountaintop Removal Week
Mar. 8	International Womens Day
Mar. 19	Anniv. of Iraq War
Mar. 19-22	Ecumenical Advocacy Days
Mar. 22	Sex Ed Advocacy Call-In Day
Mar. 22	World Water Day
Mar. 28	Earth Hour

Social Justice Awards for UUs and Congregations!

Nominations and submissions due March 1, 2010!

Bennett Award for Congregational Action on Human Justice and Social Action

The Bennett Award for Congregational Action on Human Justice and Social Action, instituted in 1999 by James Bennett to honor the congregation that has done exemplary work in social justice, is accompanied by a \$500 cash award that is presented at General Assembly.

(<http://www.uua.org/giving/awardsscholarships/bennettaward/index.shtml>)

Holmes-Weatherly Award

The Holmes-Weatherly Award is given to an individual or organization, not necessarily a Unitarian Universalist, whose life-long commitment to faith-based social justice is reflected in societal transformation. The recognition is accompanied by a \$500 cash award.

(<http://www.uua.org/giving/awardsscholarships/holmes-weatherlyaward/index.shtml>)

Skinner Sermon Award

Presented annually to the preacher of the sermon best expressing Unitarian Universalism's social principles. Open to any Unitarian Universalist layperson, religious educator, or minister, the award was established to stimulate preaching concerned with the social implications of religion. The award carries an honorarium of \$500. The sermon is delivered by the author in a special worship service at General Assembly (GA). Individuals may submit only one entry to the Skinner Sermon Award Committee.

(<http://www.uua.org/giving/awardsscholarships/skinnersermon/index.shtml>)

Social Witness Sermon Contest

This is the opportunity to speak out on any dimension of these current Congregational Study/Action Issues, adopted by the delegates of General Assemblies 2006 and 2008 respectively: **Peacemaking and Ethical Eating**. There is a \$500 award and an opportunity to deliver the sermon at General Assembly 2010.

(<http://www.uua.org/giving/awardsscholarships/socialwitness/index.shtml>)

Earth Day Resources Available

The UU Ministry for Earth has made free resources available to help congregations plan their Earth Day services, ranging from order of service covers to suggestions of ways UUs can bring their commitment to Earth Day beyond church walls. Use these resources to join congregations across the country in focusing on Ethical Eating and Food Justice for the 40th annual Earth Day celebrations.

Visit www.uuministryforearth.org for more information.

We're on Twitter!

<http://twitter.com/UUJustice>

Did you know that we're on Facebook?
Fan our page in order to get the latest updates.

Search for:

Advocacy & Witness Initiatives of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Standing on the Side of Love with Immigrant Families

Join Standing on the Side of Love campaign staff and congregational leaders to learn about how your congregation can create partnerships with immigrant communities. Best practices and resources will be shared.

Wednesday, February 10th, 1 pm EDT (12PM Central; 11 AM Mountain; 10 AM Pacific)

Wednesday, February 17th, 8 pm EDT (7 PM Central; 3 PM Mountain; 5 PM Pacific)

Call Information

To Join the Call by Phone: Dial 218-844-8230 entry code 593426#

Log onto the web-cast by opening this link in your Browser: <http://persony100.uua.org/?meeting=3566382>