

# Multicultural Growth & Witness

## February 2012

### Best Practice

#### First UU Church of Rochester, MN 2011 Congregational Social Justice Bennett Award winner



Following a 2007 Social Justice Empowerment (SJE) workshop sponsored by Unitarian Universalist

Association's (UUA's)

Office of Congregational Advocacy & Witness, First Unitarian Universalist Church renewed a "spirit of social activism within the church, reorganized lay leaders, and increased congregant participation." As a result of the workshop, the congregation formed several Task Forces addressing the issues of poverty, racism, health care, the environment, international justice, Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender (GLBT) rights, and people with disabilities. The congregation also organized a 45-member rapid response Standing on the Side of Love team! Read the complete story: [www.uua.org/action/stories/190925.shtml](http://www.uua.org/action/stories/190925.shtml)

### Witness

#### Standing on the Side of Love Month

Thirty Days of Love—Jan 16—Feb 14  
The Story of Us, The Story of Now

Welcome to THIRTY DAYS OF LOVE, beginning Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and culminating with Valentine's Day! THIRTY DAYS OF LOVE is a collective visioning process about making sense of the present moment, and what we are called to do. We have lots of new **resources** for congregational use on **sharing stories, story telling, collective visioning, action planning, organizing, and theological reflection.** Use them for 30 Days of Love and beyond!



[www.standingonthesideoflove.org/national-standing-on-the-side-of-love-month-the-story-of-us-the-story-of-now](http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/national-standing-on-the-side-of-love-month-the-story-of-us-the-story-of-now)

See [www.uua.org/uufp](http://www.uua.org/uufp) for rolling Standing on the Side of Love grants. (Other justice grant proposals due by March 15th.)

### Awards

#### Social Justice Awards & Cash Prizes for UU Congregations & Individuals!

Accepting nominations now! Apply by: March 1

- Bennett Award for Congregational Action on Human Justice & Social Action (deadline March 15)
- Holmes-Weatherly Award
- Skinner Sermon Award
- Social Witness Sermon Contest
- Wilton Peace Prize

To learn more and apply, see: [www.uua.org/action/awards/](http://www.uua.org/action/awards/)

### Staff Update

#### New Women's Issues Program Associate

Welcome to Jessica Halperin, Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation/Clara Barton Women's Issues Program Associate. As the Women's Issues Program Associate, Jessica will be working with the Multicultural Growth and Witness group to help congregations and the UUA advocate for policies which support reproductive justice and issues affecting women in poverty. Her 6-month appointment is funded through a grant from the UU Women's Federation and will extend through June, 2012. Jessica can be reached at [jhalperin@uua.org](mailto:jhalperin@uua.org) or 202-393-2255 x12. Learn more at [www.uuwf.org/clarabartonintern.html](http://www.uuwf.org/clarabartonintern.html)

*The programs and services of the UUA are made possible by the generosity of individual donors and gifts to the Annual Program Fund. Please consider making a donation today to sustain our work: [uua.org/giving/apf](http://uua.org/giving/apf).*

[www.uua.org/justice](http://www.uua.org/justice)

## Feedback Needed on Immigration as a Moral Issue Curriculum!

Has your congregation used the six-week curriculum for our congregational study/action issue (CSAI), Immigration as a Moral Issue? We are collecting feedback with the intent of revising the current curriculum. Starting Feb. 1st, UUs who have used the six-week curriculum are invited to share their experiences at: [www.surveymonkey.com/s/immigrationcsai](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/immigrationcsai).

It will be available for three months (closing April 30th). So even if you haven't used the curriculum yet, it's not too late to organize a study group or adult RE class.

### Social Witness

#### Submit comments on CSAI Immigration as a Moral Issue

Don't forget to submit comments on CSAI Immigration as a Moral Issue. See the sample form and learn how to participate at: [www.uua.org/statements/current/index.shtml](http://www.uua.org/statements/current/index.shtml)

**Deadline: March 1.**

### Witness

## Earth Day 2012



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
MINISTRY FOR EARTH

The UU Ministry for Earth is releasing its annual collection of Earth Day materials to assist congregations in planning worship services and other activities around **Earth Day – Sunday, April 22**. In keeping with the focus on immigration at the upcoming General Assembly and the current "Immigration as a Moral Issue" CSAI, this year's offerings explore the links between Environmental Justice and Immigration. The collection of materials examines impacts that environmental issues and immigration have on each other in four broad areas: health issues; climate change; border and migration issues; and population and scapegoating issues. Materials include downloads and resources, a call to action with sample actions, congregational stories, and more. They will be available on the UU Ministry for Earth's website ([www.uuministryforearth.org](http://www.uuministryforearth.org)) on or near January 24th. Congregations are encouraged to share their planned activities with others by registering online.

## Congregational Resources for Immigration Advocacy in Our Communities

The UUA and our interfaith and immigrant rights coalition partners have launched a national immigration advocacy campaign in our communities. Our goal is to have interfaith teams meeting with officials in their communities to:

- 1) change the way communities respond to detention requests by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
- 2) to stop the unlimited access of ICE agents to jails. Policies resisting such requests by ICE have already been implemented in Cook Co., IL and Santa Rosa Co., CA, and more counties are sure to follow suit. (Join our **webinar on Feb 2** — see [www.uua.org/immigration](http://www.uua.org/immigration) for info!)

Download the Advocacy Toolkit, a step by step guide to changing your community's policy on ICE Detainers: [www.interfaithimmigration.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/Advocacy-S-Comm-Toolkit-version-1-6.pdf](http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/Advocacy-S-Comm-Toolkit-version-1-6.pdf)

See online map for teams in your community: [g.co/maps/da3d3](http://g.co/maps/da3d3)

### Witness

## UUSC Justice Sunday 2012

### March 25: Justice Is the Human Right to Water



This year's Justice Sunday theme — "Justice Is the Human Right to Water" — focuses on how UUSC upholds the inherent worth and dignity of every person through our Environmental Justice Program, specifically through protecting the human right to water. All people have a right to safe, sufficient, affordable, accessible water for daily human needs. In the United States and internationally, UUSC and our partners are working to defend this right.

Learn more & download resources at [www.uusc.org/justicesunday/2012](http://www.uusc.org/justicesunday/2012)

See our 2011-2012 UU Social Justice Calendar at [www.uua.org/justice/calendar/index.shtml](http://www.uua.org/justice/calendar/index.shtml)