

# The Welcoming Congregation Bulletin

2013  
January

[uua.org/lgbtq](http://uua.org/lgbtq)

The Welcoming Congregation Bulletin is produced by LGBTQ Ministries, part of the Unitarian Universalist Association's Multicultural Ministries office. Each monthly issue offers a **tool** to use, an **action** to take, a **story** for inspiration, and **news** to share.

## *A tool to increase your welcome*

### LGBTQ Community Centers Map Tool

Part of being a Welcoming Congregation is building relationships and partnerships with local LGBTQ centers and/or groups. CenterLink is a national coalition of LGBT community centers, and their online map tool can help you find an LGBTQ community center near you!



Reach out and get into relationship and partnership:  
[www.lgbtcenters.org/Centers/find-a-center.aspx](http://www.lgbtcenters.org/Centers/find-a-center.aspx)

## *An action to live it loud and proud*



**THIRTY  
DAYS OF  
LOVE**

### Join in the 30 Days of Love!

The second annual 30 Days of Love starts January 19! There are so many ways to participate. You can “pledge” to receive daily emails to help you practice love in action, hold a Sunday service, present a Courageous Love Award, and more!

30 Days of Love is a month of intentional action, service, education, and reflection for people of all ages, spiritual practices, and identities. Be a part of the love!

[www.standingonthesideoflove.org/30daysoflove](http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/30daysoflove)

## A story to inspire your work

### All Souls New London Welcomes Homeless Guests

Part of what makes All Souls New London, CT, a UU Breakthrough Congregation is being a Welcoming Congregation for people who are homeless. All Souls hosts the New London Homeless Hospitality Center's daytime center, and, in true hospitality, installed showers in their congregation for homeless guests.

Welcoming ministry indeed! [uuworld.org/life/articles/220121.shtml](http://uuworld.org/life/articles/220121.shtml)

Did you know that 20–40% of all homeless youth identify as LGBTQ\* and one fifth of all transgender people have experienced homelessness? \*\*

**The Ali Forney Center's drop-in facility for LGBTQ youth in NYC was destroyed by Hurricane Sandy.** Find out how you can help: [bit.ly/helpAliForneyCtr](http://bit.ly/helpAliForneyCtr)



\* [LGBT Youth: An Epidemic of Homelessness](#). 2011. National Gay & Lesbian Task Force / National Coalition for the Homeless.

\*\* [Injustice at Every Turn](#). 2011. National Center for Transgender Equality / National Gay & Lesbian Task Force.

## News to share

### It's Legal! UUs Celebrate Marriage in ME, MD, WA, & West Point

As same-sex marriage hits the books in new places, Unitarian Universalists are hitting the aisle, the pulpit, and the party! Here are just a few examples:



- ◆ In **Washington**, Quimper UU Fellowship [opened its doors](#) to any and all couples who sought to be married on "First Day."
- ◆ In **Maryland**, the UU Legislative Ministry of MD [celebrates the road traveled](#) and the many UU voices that made a difference.
- ◆ In **Maine**, Allen Avenue UU Church celebrated freedom to marry during a Sunday service—[complete with wedding cake!](#)
- ◆ The West Point, NY, U.S. Military Academy hosted its [first same-sex marriages](#) since the repeal of DADT, with one co-officiated by UU minister Vanessa Southern.

The Welcoming Congregation Bulletin is produced by LGBTQ Ministries, part of the Multicultural Ministries office (see [uua.org/mgw](http://uua.org/mgw)). For more info, to subscribe, and to submit content ideas, email [lgbtq@uua.org](mailto:lgbtq@uua.org)