



Advocacy & Witness News

Congregational Advocacy and Witness (617) 948-4607 www.uua.org/justice
 Washington Office for Advocacy (202) 296-4672 www.uua.org/uuawo

MAY 2007

JOIN US AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations, held this year in Portland, OR. At GA, delegates debate and vote on Actions of Immediate Witness and Statements of Conscience which become official UUA policy on political and social justice issues. Join Advocacy and Witness at our booth in the exhibit hall, where you can enter to win "Standing on the Side of Love" t-shirts, attend issue briefings, take action on key legislation, obtain key resources and learn more about UUA Social Justice and Advocacy. **Please also join us for workshops on advocacy and social change, including:**

Breaking the Silence: Truth, Reconciliation & Racial Justice

UUA President William Sinkford and a panel of congregational leaders share their congregations' stories of confronting their history of participation in racial injustice and what they've done to bear witness and heal their communities.

Bringing Your Spiritual Self to Religious Work

Rev. Alida DeCoster, UUA Washington Office for Advocacy; Tandi Rogers Koerger, Program Specialist, Pacific NW District; Janine Larsen, District Executive, PNWD; Carmen McDowell, volunteer consultant, PNWD

Breaking the Silence: Confronting the Legacy of Lynching

In *On the Courthouse Lawn* (Beacon Press, 2007) Sherrilyn Ifill, civil-rights attorney, traces the history of lynching in the U.S. and issues a clarion call for communities to examine their histories of racial violence and embrace restorative reconciliation/reparations efforts in facing their legacy.

Queer Youth and Young Adult Advocacy

Meet advocates and activists, hear progress on current issues and gain organizing/lobbying training. Panelists include grassroots organizers and Sue Hyde, author of *Come Out and Win: Organizing Yourself, Your Community, and Your World* (Beacon Press).

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"Power, privilege, and position are great resources. Use them well. Do not become attached to them; for when we do, we begin to lose our moral fiber."

—Gandhi

Calendar

May 15	Clock in For Equality: Workplace Fairness for BGLT Workers
June 20-24	General Assembly, Portland, OR

STANDING ON THE SIDE OF LOVE T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE ONLINE

With the warmer weather comes outdoor activities and t-shirts! We know that you UUs will be out there for demonstrations, prayer vigils, and just for fun. Why not be more visible as Unitarian Universalists while you do it? The next time your congregation goes to a public event, make sure that everyone will easily be able to find each other. Our 100% cotton t-shirts come in an attractive and easy-to-spot royal blue. Stand out in a crowd. Stand up for justice. Stand on the side of love.

For more information, pictures, and/or to place an order, please visit:

https://secure.democracyinaction.org/dia/organizations/UUA/shop/shop.jsp?storefront_KEY=174

There is a \$3/shirt discount for bulk orders, so order as a congregation! If you'd rather place an order by phone, please call Kat Liu at (202) 296-4672 x12

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Welcoming the Stranger: A Just Immigration Policy

Interfaith Worker Justice Director Kim Bobo advocates for humane immigration law for millions of immigrants already in the U.S. to earn their citizenship and to prevent the creation of a permanent underclass. UUs in congregation-based community organizations share stories of solidarity actions with immigrant communities and the new sanctuary movement.

Organizing for a Just Recovery in the Gulf

Following Hurricane Katrina, congregation-based community organizations – All Congregations Together, Working Interfaith Network, & National Alliance to Restore the Gulf mobilized constituencies, connected evacuees, advocating for a just recovery. Built on the strength of one-to-one organizing across class & race, leaders share rapid response & long-term systemic change strategies.

The Theology of Peacemaking

Rev. Dr. William F. Schulz; former Amnesty International Executive Director and UUA President; Dr. Sharon Welch, Chair of Religious Studies at the University of Missouri

Witness for Earth Community

Saturday, June 23rd, 12:15-1PM, Oregon Convention Ctr. -- M.L. King Jr. Plaza

Join President William Sinkford, Ministry for Earth, evangelical, interfaith, & community allies for a powerful witness on Global Warming & Environmental Justice. Engage in on-the-spot legislative advocacy; take home action kits.

Once Upon a Time: Framing the Katrina Story

Activists share narratives which can help to focus national concern on racism, poverty, the environment and the ways media and government can serve the common good. Dr. William E. Cross, Jr, Linda Stout, Dr. Joanna Macy, Rev. Meg Riley, Mary Fontenot

Sex, Religion and Politics: Reclaiming Our Moral Ground

Rev. Debra W. Haffner, Religious Institute on Sexual Morality, Justice, and Healing; Emily Goodstein, Spiritual Youth for Reproductive Freedom; Meredith Schonfeld-Hicks, UUA Washington Office for Advocacy

Statewide Advocacy: Raising UU Values - Changing Public Policy

Lindi Ramsden, UU Legislative Ministry of California; Jackie Ladd, UUSC, Dr. Fred Seidl

WASHINGTON OFFICE WELCOMES PEACEMAKING ASSOCIATE

The Washington Office is pleased to announce a new member of our staff. Alex Winnett will be joining us as our new Mary Bonner Memorial Program Associate for Peacemaking in June, just in time for General Assembly. Alex comes to us originally from California, by way of Earlham College in Indiana, where he is finishing a degree in Peace and Global Studies. In addition to his studies, his volunteer advocacy experience and lifelong involvement with Unitarian Universalism at all levels makes him highly qualified to work with congregations to help implement our current Congregational Study Action Issue (CSAI), Peacemaking. Alex will be working with Adam Gerhardstein, our Legislative Assistant for International Issues, and a group of dedicated and knowledgeable volunteers who have been developing resources for study, reflection and action on the issue. He will be working closely with DC area congregations as pilots in the CSAI process. Peacemaking is obviously a timely issue and we are very pleased to have someone who will be dedicated to helping congregations address this CSAI.

The Peacemaking Program Associate is made possible by a generous contribution by Robert Bonner of All Souls Church, Unitarian in Washington DC, in memory of his wife, Mary Bonner.