



Advocacy & Witness News

Congregational Advocacy and Witness
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OCTOBER 2008

Harvest Time

For many parts of the United States, October is harvest time. It is time to give one last push of hard work before winter arrives. And what a winter we have to prepare for this year! With the US General Election just one month away, we are encouraging every one to get out the vote and make this season one where we reap peace and justice.

In our mailing this month we have **election resources**, ways to **train your congregation for community organizing**, our **legislative priorities** for the 111th Congress, and our **action of the month for Iran**. We are also pleased to announce the dates for the **Spring '09 Sexuality Education Advocacy Training**. We'll see you at the polls!

New Voting Resource: Faithful Democracy 2008

Congregations and campus groups interested in registering and mobilizing voters are encouraged to check out *Faithful Democracy: Unitarian Universalists and the 2008 Election*, a new resource which lays out clear steps for effective organizing.

The guide starts with a simple summary of what congregations and religious leaders can and cannot do in an election year, provides step-by-step suggestions for appropriate activities, and ends with a detailed list of resources and links (such as to the voter registration requirements for each state). This new resource, as well as *The Real Rules: Congregations and IRS Guidelines on Advocacy, Lobbying, and Elections*, is available at: uua.org/socialjustice.

Congregational Based Community Organizing Money Available Now!

The Fund for UU Social Responsibility will offer matching grants for congregations wishing to join a congregation-based community organization (CBCO). This "Special Matching Fund for Congregation-Based Community Organizing Grants" will provide a resource for UU congregations and their leaders to draw upon in initiating CBCO work.

As a matching fund, congregations will be expected to make their own financial commitment as a condition of receiving a grant. The Fund is also offering matching grants for congregational leaders to attend CBCO training. The UU Funding Program is proud to add this \$80,000 initiative to their grant making program. There will be an application process of two cycles a year for matching membership grants – in March and September – and for smaller matching grants for training at any time. Please see go to <http://www.uua.org/giving/fundingprogram/> for more information.

For more information about CBCO, how to find a CBCO near your congregation, and for information on CBCO Network trainings see www.uua.org/socialjustice, select resources and click on Congregation-Based Community Organizing (or go to <http://www.uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary/congregation-basedcommunity/index.shtml>).



"The problem after a war is with the victor. He thinks he has just proven that war and violence pay. Who will teach him a lesson?"
 -A.J. Muste

Calendar

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| October 8 | Indigenous People's Day/ Columbus Day |
| October 9 | Yom Kippur |
| October 11 | National Coming Out Day |
| October 26 | United Nations Sunday |
| November 4 | United States General Election |
| November 8-9 | Tents of Hope |
| November 11 | Veteran's Day/ Armistice Day |

Action of the Month: Iran

Please note and post our companion newsletter on the October Action for Iran.

November's Action will be on HIV/AIDS.

Social Justice Award for Congregations!
Consider nominating your congregation!
Nominations are due March 1, 2009!

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.

For more information and to see past recipients, please see:
www.uua.org/giving/awardsscholarships/bennettaward/index.shtml

Sexuality Education Advocacy Training Dates Announced

The Unitarian Universalist Association, the United Church of Christ, the Union for Reformed Judaism, Advocates for Youth and the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice present the 5th Annual Sexuality Education and Advocacy Training to be held **March 21-24th, 2009** in Washington, DC.

Learn up-to-date facts on comprehensive sexuality education and how to lobby your Congressional Representatives.

Look out for applications on our website: www.uua.org/socialjustice or in the November issue of Advocacy and Witness News.

Advocacy and Witness Has an Award-Winning Blog!

The Criminal Justice Degrees Guide named our site one of the 100 best civil rights blogs.

Read our reflections on upcoming events and news stories, thoughts on new movements and causes, and reports on exciting progress on national legislation.

<http://uuasocialjustice.blogspot.com>

**“Nothing is lost by peace;
everything may be lost by war.”**

-Pope Paul IV

**Stand on the Side of Love With
New T-Shirts**

The Holiday Season is quickly on its way. Get your shopping done early by purchasing our Stand on the Side of Love shirts for all your family members.

Order your shirt now, they are going fast. Get your favorite activist a shirt for the upcoming year of actions. **Hurry! Supplies are limited.**

Our handsome shirts come in both **adult and children’s sizes.** And are made from pre-shrunk, 100% cotton materials. **Available in all sizes (From Children’s Small up to XXL).**

There is a **\$3/shirt discount for bulk orders,** so order as a congregation! Contact Kat Liu at Kliu@uua.org. If you’d rather place an order by phone, please call at (202) 393-2255 x13.



“...Jane learned that ‘the things that makes us alike are stronger than the things make us different.’”

-Dorothy Nathan writing about Jane Addams



**Social Justice Empowerment Workshop
Now accepting workshop requests for 2009!**

Congregational social justice leaders often ask: “How can we involve more people in our congregation’s social justice programs?”

The basic purpose of a social justice empowerment workshop is for members of a congregation to assess the quality of their social justice program. It is an opportunity for members of a congregation to consider what they are doing as an institution to create a more just and caring world. During the workshop participants reflect upon what they can do as a religious community to put their faith into practice.

A workshop usually takes place over a weekend. Here, you learn how to: form action groups, enable action groups to do effective work, and evaluate the overall social justice program.

Congregations pay a program fee based on the size of their faith community. For more information including costs involved, or to apply, please see:
www.uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary/socialjustice/index.shtml