



# Advocacy & Witness News

Congregational Advocacy and Witness  
 Washington Office for Advocacy  
 International Resources Office

(617) 948-4607  
 (202) 393-2255  
 (617) 948-6412

DECEMBER 2008

## A Time for Peace and Hope

Religions throughout the world have holidays that converge at this time. All have the same theme of hope and peace. Christians celebrate the birth of their Savior. Jews recognize the gift of religious freedom. Muslims remember the salvation of Abraham and Isaac. Neo-Pagans and Earth Worshippers welcome the return of the sun after the months of darkness.

In this season of peace and hope, we have much to be thankful for. But we also recognize that there is much to do. In one month, we will have a new administration and government. We still need to work with our politicians to be the change we wish to see.

This month we have lots of resources to help you prepare for the new year of work. **The Statement of Conscience is available for review.** We are now accepting **SEAT applications.** New resources are available from **Faith in Public Life** for working with other religious organizations. And we are supporting the **Coalition of Immokalee Worker's** campaign for just wages.

May you have Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year.

## Sexuality Education Advocacy Training (SEAT)

March 21-24, 2008  
 Washington, DC

Applications now available online at [uua.org/seat](http://uua.org/seat)

The fifth annual Sexuality Education Advocacy Training (SEAT) brings together members of Unitarian Universalism, the United Church of Christ and the Union for Reform Judaism to learn how to be effective advocates for comprehensive sexuality education. **Ages 16 and up are encouraged to apply. Generous scholarships are available for travel!**

For more information, please visit [uua.org/seat](http://uua.org/seat) or email [seat@uua.org](mailto:seat@uua.org)

## Statement of Conscience: Peacemaking

On **November 15th**, the Commission on Social Witness (CSW) released the rough draft for the Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking.

After nearly three years of studying peace and peacemaking with congregations like yours, the CSW has written a comprehensive statement on the role of UUs in the larger peace community.

Congregational polling on the draft along with space for feedback has opened. **We require at least 25% of all the congregations to participate** in this feedback process. **Polling closes February 1st, 2009.** For more information on the Statement of Conscience and the process, please visit [uua.org/csw](http://uua.org/csw).



**“...for every gardener knows that after the digging, after the planting, after the long season of tending and growth, the harvest comes.”**

**-Marge Piercy**

## Calendar

December 1	World AIDS Day
December 10	60th Anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights
December 21	Hanukkah Begins
December 22	Winter Solstice
December 25	Christmas
December 26	Kwanzaa Begins
December 31 and January 1	New Years Eve and New Years Day
January 9-11	Let Justice Roll Living Wage Days

### Action of the Month: Peacemaking

Please note and post our companion newsletter on the December Action for Peacemaking.

Also available is January's Action for Living Wage.

## Ethical Eating Resource Guide Launched

Last month, the **Resource Guide for the Congregational Study Action Issue on Ethical Eating** was launched.

This guide is full of essays, movies, books, and discussion questions to get your community started on talking about ethical eating.

To find this resource, please visit [uua.org/socialjustice](http://uua.org/socialjustice)

## Actions of the Month through Summer 2009

Below are the UUA Actions of the Month through summer of 2009. We encourage you to plan your social justice calendar accordingly.

**January:** Economic Justice/ Living Wage

**February:** BGLT Justice

**March:** Gender Justice

**April:** Environmental Justice

**May:** Immigration

**June:** General Assembly

**July:** GA Follow Up

**August:** Gulf Coast

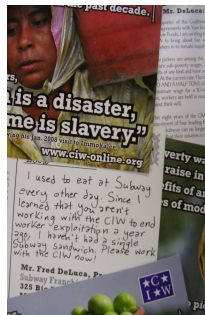
## Justice for Tomato Pickers: Just Add Stamps

The Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) has been fighting for justice for Florida tomato pickers since 1993.

They have achieved enormous victories with Taco Bell, Whole Foods and Burger King, but both Subway and Chipotle have refused to cooperate.

If you would like to add your voice to the call for just wages for tomato pickers, email the CIW at:

**workers@ciw-online.org** to request postcards to mail to the company CEOs of Subway and Chipotle. Email photos of your filled out postcards to **la\_racialjustice@uua.org**, and we'll post them on the UUA Advocacy & Witness blog!



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

Everybody's favorite t-shirt, Stand on the Side of Love, is a perfect holiday present. Order one now for your loved ones.

Our handsome shirts come in both **adult and children's sizes**. And are made from pre-shrunk, 100% cotton materials. **Available in all sizes.** Sweatshop free and union made.

Order two weeks before your holiday of choice in order to get them before the big day (Dec 8 for Hanukkah or Yule/Solstice. Dec 10 for Christmas or Kwanzaa).

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



"Caring about the world does not begin with fear or morbidity but with fascination."  
-Garrison Keillor

"Cogito, ergo sum, said Descartes. I think, therefore I am. Nonsense! Amo, ergo sum—I love, therefore I am."  
-William Sloan Coffin

## Add Your Congregation to the Faith in Public Life Map!



A new tool exists to 'map' the social justice work of UU congregations by entering our congregations on to the *Faith in Public Life: A Resource Center for Justice and the Common Good* website <http://www.faithinpubliclife.org/>. Being part of the map allows us to network with interfaith and advocacy partners. Being on the map provides congregations with media opportunities, diverse partners, and resources for social justice. With new opportunities to move forward on our social justice objectives created by the election it's time to be as organized as possible! To view the map, go to:

<http://www.faithinpubliclife.org/map/index.html>

To enter your congregation on to the map, go to:

<http://www.faithinpubliclife.org/organizations/information.html>.

You will be asked to select from a menu: the social justice issues you work on, the ways you do your work, as well the scope of the work (local, state, national). **Please enter your congregation by Jan. 1, 2009.** (It will only take a few minutes). The Faith in Public Life Map project is funded in part by the UU Veatch Program at Shelter Rock.