



BCD In-Brief



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Learn about Immigration Justice in New England

Immigration issues affect New England, not just the southwest. The BCD 2012 Justice GA Task Force is hosting two events to help UUs in our congregations learn about how immigration impacts our communities and what we can do to support our immigrant neighbors.

- **Immigration is a New England Issue Too**

Date/Time: March 10, 2012 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon *[new time]*

Location: First Parish Church, 842 Tremont St, Duxbury, MA

Registration: www.cbd-mbd-uua.org/immigrant-rights or call 617-393-4216; free will offering will be taken

UU Mass Action Network is offering a seminar to give an overview of immigration in this region of the United States. Although parts of the seminar will focus on Massachusetts, there will be information and strategy discussion that pertains to the region. The program will feature:

- **Screening of "Lost in Detention"** - a documentary about the Obama administration's detention policy and how effects communities across the country,
- **Policy Briefing on Immigration in Massachusetts** - a coalition of immigrant organizations will talk about this issue in Massachusetts and what Unitarian Universalist can do to take action.
- **General Assembly Preview** - an overview of GA programming and events
- **Strategy Development** -- A discussion lead by UUMassAction about what can be done in local communities around immigration justice

- **New Neighbors Next Door - Now Is The Time To Know Our Immigrants** Date/Time: March 31, 2012 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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Location: Universalist Unitarian Church of Brockton, 325 West Elm St (corner of West Elm and Belmont Ave)
Registration: \$10 payable at the door.

Haitians and East Africans immigrants, brought together by the Rev. Robert Thayer, minister of the UU Church of Brockton, will to share their stories about how they are affected by US immigration policy and the INS. In addition to presentations and conversation participants will have an opportunity to share in a sample of worship services conducted by the presenters in their home faith communities. A light lunch will be served.

BCD Annual Music Conference in March

The BCD/New England Musician's Network annual music conference is being planned. The Conference will be held March 3, 2012.

Location: Murray Unitarian Universalist Church, 505 North Main Street. Attleboro, MA

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Registration: \$30 to February 29, \$35 after and at the door.

By credit card -- <http://bcduuamusicconference2012.eventbrite.com/>

By check - To BCD, mailed to BCD Office: 325 West Elm Street, Brockton, MA 02301

Workshops: Worship Leadership for Children's Choirs, Tending the Spirit through Song, Rhythm for Choir, Kirtan (call and response technique for mantras), Beginning Conducting, Beginning Organ for Pianists. In the afternoon there will be the popular Choral Repertoire Reading Session

Conference information has been sent to church offices and music directors.

Legacy Giving Workshop to be Sponsored by District

Learn how to develop and manage a planned giving program at your congregation by attending the Ballou Channing District sponsored "Pathways to Legacy: Developing Planned Giving" workshop for congregation leaders with Liz McClain, Legacy Gifts Manager at the UUA. Liz will address topics such as charitable bequests, gift annuities, umbrella giving, and wills to help congregations in talking with members about different ways of giving. The workshop is free, but registration is requested.

Date/Time: March 24, 2012 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: All Souls Church, Braintree, MA

Registration: Call 508-559-6650 or email BallouChanning@verizon.net to register giving name, congregation and contact information. [*One person may register for a congregation team, but provide the names and contact information for all individuals*]

District Creates Special Fund for General Assembly Scholarships

With a contribution of \$1300 the district has established the Bring Justice Home Scholarship Fund. The BCD Justice GA Task Force invites individuals and congregations to add to the District's contribution with a donation. This is an opportunity for individuals who cannot attend General Assembly or congregations that will not be sending delegates, to support the vision of this General Assembly to move us to a higher level of involvement in our communities by helping someone else attend. Scholarships will be given to young adults and first time GA attendees (see below). A tax deductible donation can be made by sending a check to the BCD office, 325 West Elm Street, Brockton, 02301 with "GA Scholarship" in the memo line. For more information about this Fund go to the BCD website, www.bcduuu.org.

Financial Assistance to Attend General Assembly

There are several sources for financial assistance to attend the 2012 Justice General Assembly in Phoenix.

Scholarships. Scholarships will be available from two sources

- *Ballou Channing District*. The scholarships for young adults and first time GA attendees will be available after March 1 and will be granted until funds are depleted. They will be awarded on "first in, first awarded" basis. The scholarship application is available on the BCD website - www.bcduuu.org.
- *Unitarian Universalist General Assembly Planning Committee*. The scholarships are open to all, but priority is given to applicants who will represent their congregation at GA as delegates or congregations that have not (or not recently) sent representation to GA. Applications will be accepted between March 1 and March 31. For details go to <http://www.uua.org/ga/registration/financialaid/15005.shtml>

Volunteer opportunities. The GA office has need for volunteers for various tasks. Individuals will be required to contribute 24 hours in segments during General Assembly and in exchange registration fees will be waived. Applications will be received between March 1 and March 31. For details to go <http://www.uua.org/ga/registration/financialaid/14930.shtml>.

2012 BCD Spring Conference to Look at Mission-Driven Church

The BCD Spring Conference and Annual Meeting will be held on May 5, at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Fairhaven, MA, 102 Green Street, Fairhaven. The conference theme is a mission-focused church: living into the community. The keynote speaker will be the Rev. Ron Robinson, minister of A Third Place in Turley, Oklahoma. A Third Place is a unique, mission-driven congregation in a poor Oklahoma town whose focus and purpose is on service to the community rather than just traditional worship and programs. Workshops will look at various aspects of being mission-focused to include doing spiritual-based social justice work, seeing our "churches" a more than just what is within the walls, finding one's spiritual center as the foundation to doing church

work. Conference attendees will also have an opportunity to participate in a facilitated Gathered Here session (see next article). The 2012 Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with the conference. Details about the conference will be forthcoming in early March.

BCD to Participate in UUA Gathered Here Project

Gathered Here is a joint initiative of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Board of Trustees and the UUA Administration in which all Unitarian Universalists are invited to discover our common aspirations and unleash the power of our faith. Using an Appreciative Inquiry methodology individuals and groups will engage in a facilitated discussion to capture meaningful moments, times of growth and positive developments in UU congregations and then reflect on how these positive experiences are relevant to our larger faith and how they might be applied to our collective future.

Gathered Here conversations can be done in several ways - in a congregation, one-on-one and at special gatherings and meetings. The Ballou Channing District will conduct a Gathered Here conversation as part of the 2012 Spring Conference on May 5. To find out more about Gathered Here go to <http://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/vision/faq/index.shtml> and <http://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/vision/>. More information will be sent to congregation offices in March and April.

Ask the Right Question*

*Leaders do not need to have all the answers.
Leaders need to be able to ask the right questions*

Having church members such as board members, worship committee, membership committee visit other churches helps congregations learn from one another. A church seeking to learn and improve is a sign of a healthy congregation. Some questions to help in this learning are:

- What practices seem to be working well for the other church and why?
- What did we see that fits our context closely enough that we may want to try it?
- What else can we learn from the church we visited?

*From Lewis Center "Leading Ideas" e-newsletter

Falmouth Fellowship Youth Organizing a HUNGER FEAST

The Falmouth youth group has organized an event to raise awareness for world hunger at the Falmouth Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 840 Sandwich Rd. East Falmouth, Saturday February 18, 2012, 6 p.m. All proceeds benefit The Sharing Foundation to help meet the needs of orphaned and seriously disadvantaged children in Cambodia, Bopha Samms (owner of Stir Crazy) will speak and provide a taste of Cambodian food. Adult: \$20 in advance, \$25 at door, Students: (ages 13-18): \$15, Kids: (4-12): \$10 Call for reservations (508) 457 0449

News From the Larger UU World

- **Clara Barton/MassBay Districts Sponsoring Growth Workshop in March**

Rev. Stefan Jonasson, UUA Large Congregations Director, will lead a workshop that will help participants: look at growth strategies that work, understand and prepare for different types of growth, re-orient church leadership toward mission-based growth, learn about special considerations for growing larger and smaller congregations.

This training is for leaders of congregations of ANY size and will be especially appropriate for ministers, board members, membership committees, religious educators, and anyone involved in congregational mission/vision/planning. Registration deadline is February 27. More information at: <http://www.cbd-mbd-uua.org/content/inspiring-congregational-growth>

- **The General Assembly Accessibility Project for Youth and Young Adults**

The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries teamed up with the General Assembly Planning Committee (GAPC) to provide additional support for youth and young adults who want to make it to Phoenix for Justice GA in June, 2012. Look at the welcome video from this year's Youth Caucus Deans, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKuoYfxmOPk> and visit the GA Accessibility Project site at www.blueboat.blogs.uua.org/ga2012 for a wide scope of information about attending GA.

- **2012 Living Legacy Pilgrimage**

Registration is now open for the 2012 Living Legacy Civil Rights Pilgrimage scheduled for October 6-13, 2012. This Pilgrimage visits some of the historic sites and provides participating an opportunity to meet veterans of the Civil Rights Movement and spend time together and with guests exploring what racism, white privilege, and barriers to equality look like today in Southern towns we visit--and in our own hometowns. The Living Legacy Pilgrimage is hosted and organized by the Reverend Gordon Gibson and his wife, Judy, the Reverend Hope Johnson, the Reverend James Hobart, Janice Marie Johnson, Annette Marquis, and Donna Sequeira and co-sponsored by the Southeast District of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

For more information and to register, please visit www.uulivinglegacy.org.

- **UUA Position open- LGBT Ministries Program Coordinator**

This position has been re-envisioned to emphasize advocacy, witness, and organizing in addition to the traditional functions of helping congregations develop their capacity to welcome and include LGBT people as part of effective ministry with particular emphasis on transgender and bisexual communities. The position will be supervised in the Witness Ministries portfolio, however, the staff person will also work with the Multicultural Growth team on LGBT welcome and inclusion. See details about the position and application at www.uua.org/careers/openings/index.shtml

- **New Religious Education Resources**

The Ministries and Faith Development Staff Group recently announced the publication of *With Justice and Compassion: Immigration Sessions for Children's Religious Education* By Mandy Neff. The curriculum includes four sessions each for children in grades 1-3 and children in grades 4-6, as well as plans for a Family Night, where children share what they have learned and take part in a service project. The curriculum invites children to explore their own family stories while learning about immigration in the United States. It lifts up justice and compassion as guiding values as we consider immigration justice issues in our own time. To look at

or download go to http://www.uua.org/documents/neffmandy/justice_compassion.pdf

Also, a new adult on-line curriculum, What We Choose: Ethics for Unitarian Universalists is available. The workshop series explores how we do and could make choices grounded in our "deed over creed" UU faith. It examines the frameworks for ethical decision making, from Kant's categorical imperative to personal experiences one has lived in one's social/political place in the dominant society. Information at <http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/adults/ethics/index.shtml>.

- **Star Island Announces 2012 Conference Schedule**

The Star Island Corp announces the launch of its 2012 conference season with themes ranging from the Arab Spring to the secret lives of birds and turtles among 40 events with speakers as diverse as best-selling authors to lighthouse historians. More information about all of the conferences can be found by visiting <http://www.starisland.org/>. Star Island is located ten miles off the coast of New Hampshire. It has provided affordable camp-like vacations for individuals and families since 1916.

Calendar

Feb 20	South Shore Presidents Cluster <i>Second Parish, Hingham</i>	7:00 p
Mar 1	BCD Justice GA Task Force meeting* <i>First Parish Church, Bridgewater, MA</i> (Originally scheduled Feb 27)	10:00 a - 12:00 n
Mar 3	Inspiring Congregation Growth <i>First Parish Church in Weston, MA</i> (a Clara Barton District/MassBay District event)	9:00 a - 2:30 p
Mar 7	BCD UUMA Meeting <i>First Universalist Society in Franklin, MA</i>	9:00 a - 12:00 n
Mar 5	BCD Board of Directors meeting* <i>First Parish Church, Taunton, MA</i>	6:30 - 9:00 p
Mar 10	Immigration Seminar -- Immigration is a New England Issue Too* <i>First Parish Church, Duxbury, MA</i>	9:00 a - 12:00 n
Mar 24	Pathway to Legacy: Developing Planned Giving* <i>All Souls Church, Braintree</i>	9:00 a - 12:00 n
Mar 31	Immigration Seminar -- New Neighbors Next Door : Now Is The Time To Know Our Immigrants <i>Universalist Unitarian Church, Brockton, MA</i>	10:00 a - 2:00 p
Apr 9	BCD Board Meeting* <i>First Unitarian Church, Providence, RI</i> (Originally scheduled Mar 26)	6:00 - 9:00 p
May 5	Spring Conference and Annual Meeting <i>Unitarian Universalist Society of Fairhaven, MA</i>	9:00 a - 3:00 p
May 7-9	BCD UUMA Chapter Retreat <i>Glastonbury Abbey, Hingham, MA</i>	
May 19	Youth advisor / youth leader training <i>Location TBA</i>	TBA
May 21	BCD Board of Directors Meeting <i>First Congregational Parish in Kingston, MA</i>	6:00 - 9:00 p
Jun 10	Westminster Unitarian Church Building Dedication	TBA

Jun 20-24 *Westminster Unitarian Church, East Greenwich, RI*
General Assembly
Phoenix, AZ

* New since last issue

A Bit of Church Humor

Instead of PowerPoint, Rev Ed chose another way
to convey the church's precarious financial position
*Leadership Journal, Winter 2011



