

# CATALYST

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE OFFICE OF RACIAL AND ETHNIC CONCERNS

*Engaged in recognizing and “re-storying” ourselves for a multicultural Unitarian Universalist future*

### Headline News:

Great news! Taquiena Boston has been named the Director of Multicultural Growth and Witness, a new staff group that will bring together the best work the UUA has been doing across the Unitarian Universalist movement to live out an inclusive, multicultural vision of congregational life, public witness and engagement in the broader world. This new staff group will:



Support congregations and community leaders dedicated to intentional multicultural growth and ministry and effective congregation-based public witness.

Partner with leading congregations and coalitions to develop strategies, share best practices, develop leadership, and support promising new directions in multicultural growth, public witness, and congregationally-based organizing and coalition work in social justice.

Provide justice-making consultancy services to support and resource UU congregations' anti-oppression/anti-racism/multicultural and social justice work.

Engage congregations to harness the power of love to stop oppression, exclusion and violence through the Standing on the Side of Love campaign with primary foci on BGLT equality and immigrant rights.

Support congregation-based advocacy at the state and local level, working with the respective leadership, as well as with local organizers and interns.

The Multicultural Growth and Witness staff group will officially begin its work on July 1, 2010. Its structure will house a new Congregational Justice Consultancy, which will administer programs formerly run through Advocacy and Witness and Identity-Based Ministries: Building the World We Dream About, Inspired Faith/Effective Action, Jubilee Anti-Racism Power Analysis, JUUST Change (Anti-Oppression Consultancy), Social Justice Empowerment Workshop, Welcoming Congregation and Living the Welcoming Congregation.

### Updates from the Diversity of Ministry Initiative:

Congratulations are in order! On March, 28, **First Parish in Cambridge** took a joyous 98% vote in favor of calling **Rev. Lilia Cuervo** as Associate Minister. This historic event comes after the congregation's multi-year engagement with the Diversity of Ministry Initiative and JUUST Change to lay the groundwork for a healthy, sustainable multicultural ministry. Janice Marie Johnson was delighted to be present.

Janice spent the weekend of April 16-18 in Madison, Wisconsin visiting with the **James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation** and celebrating the Community Outreach Ministry that is being led by the Rev. Chris Long. (See Catalyst II, March 2010, for further details.) During the weekend, Janice participated in two worship services, and had inspiring meetings with Rev. Darrel Richie, Rev. Chris Long, the Board of Trustees, the Committee on Ministry, and other UU leaders from three area congregations. She also attended a reception held in honor of the DOMT Initiative support that is making this vibrant, innovative ministry possible.

**JUUST Change Consultants** Dr. Mark Hicks and Rev. Tracey Robinson-Harris spent the weekend of April 16-18 in California consulting with members of the Long Beach Transformation Team in their efforts to move forward toward multicultural, anti-racist ministry.

At the April **Diversity of Ministry Team** meeting, the committee approved supporting a community ministry initiative through the First Unitarian Church of Oakland. Rev. Alicia R. Forde is working closely with Rev. Kathy Huff, senior minister at the Oakland congregation, to bring this position to fruition; the congregation intends to create the position of Assistant Minister for Community Engagement as a part-time ministry, with intent to grow the position to full-time within several years. Our office is deeply committed to actualizing this partnership, and we are invigorated at the prospect of future community ministries.

## Updates from Constituent Organizations:

Along with Taquiena Boston and Harlan Limpert, we recently met with the **Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association (UUMA)** Committee on Ministry: ARAOMC and with the Acting Executive Director of the UUMA, Rev. Don Southworth. During the course of three days, we looked at diverse ways in which we can collaborate to support our ministers from historically marginalized groups. Rev. Hope Johnson is completing her service as the portfolio holder for ARAOM on the UUMA Exec. She will be succeeded by Rev. Parisa Parsa, who has been serving as UUMA liaison to DOMT.

## Upcoming Events:

A Unitarian Universalist contingent of 16 people will gather at **Middle Collegiate's National Multicultural Conference: The Leading Edge** from April 24<sup>th</sup>–27<sup>th</sup>, 2010, in New York City. Stay tuned for more reporting from this event. For more information visit: <http://www.middleproject.org/leading-edge-conference/>

**General Assembly:** Please visit the GA Blog and read the 2/19/10 post for a preview of the anti-racism, anti-oppression, multicultural programming that will be offered at GA 2010: <http://generalassembly.blogs.uua.org>.

The **Youth and Young Adults of Color Leadership Development Conference**, coordinated by Rev. Dr. Monica L Cummings of the UUA's Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, will take place on August 13–17 in Boston. The application is due May 15 and is available online: <http://uuyayaoc.blogs.uua.org/>.

## Exciting New Resources:

The **Virtual Multicultural Learning and Networking Community**, under the guidance of Rev. Alicia R. Forde is thriving. Alicia recently posed the following question to the community: "How do you create and *sustain* transformation and cultural shifts within your congregation/community?" The depth and breadth of the responses have been impressive; we continue to learn and grow together.

Now available: the study guide for ***The Arc of the Universe: Unitarian Universalists, Anti-Racism, and the Journey from Calgary***, authored by Rev. Leslie Takahashi Morris (co-author of the book). Contact Janice Marie Johnson to receive a copy.

**Building the World We Dream About**, a Welcoming Congregation-style curriculum on race and ethnicity developed by Dr. Mark Hicks, has moved through the editing process. It should be available through Tapestry of Faith online by July, 2010. For more information, contact Taquiena Boston at [tboston@uua.org](mailto:tboston@uua.org).

*Dream with us. Strategize with us. Build community with us. Support us...Join us in this holy work.*

Living our faith,



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