

# CATALYST

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES REGARDING RACIAL AND ETHNIC CONCERNS



*Photos from Wikipedia.org and uua.org*

## Multicultural Gratitude Gathering 2012:

On November 18, 2012, UUA staff and their families celebrated the third-annual **Multicultural Gratitude Gathering** at Eliot and Pickett Houses in Boston. Guests shared delicious home-and heart-made offerings of turkey and shrimp egg rolls, Trinidadian vegan vegetable curry, Roti, curry chicken, and pecan pie, which were also accompanied by a wonderfully diverse catered meal. A beautiful time was had by all.

UUA President **Peter Morales** offered a touching grace. **Tram Ly**, of the Finance Department, sang a beautiful Vietnamese song about the gift of unity. Multicultural Ministries and Leadership Director **Janice Marie Johnson** offered blank greeting cards for each person to write a grateful word to a teacher, a parent, a colleague or a friend. She also lit a candle of memory; a candle for the present; and a candle of hope. This annual gathering is supported by UUA leadership as a part of our ongoing commitment to create multicultural Unitarian Universalism and to nurture relationships across the Association.

The day following the gathering, all Boston staff were invited to participate in a Multicultural Gratitude Luncheon—where the plentiful leftovers were gratefully enjoyed by many.



*Photo by Justin A. Petty, B.M., M.S.*

## Coffee Hour Caution:



There's a brand-new poster from the **Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries** that's been making waves all over UU social media. Have you read it yet? It's called "Coffee Hour Caution," and it offers tongue-in-cheek tips for chatting with young adults in congregations.

To read **Carey McDonald's** blog post about the buzz surrounding the resource, and to access the one-page PDF, visit [blueboat.blogs.uua.org/young-adults/dont-get-burned-coffee-hour/](http://blueboat.blogs.uua.org/young-adults/dont-get-burned-coffee-hour/). In the post, he touches on the hundreds of comments generated by the resource, the differing opinions on its suggestions, and how many other faith traditions have responded to it.

And if you aren't already reading Blue Boat, the blog of the Youth and Young Adult Ministries, check it out! Their posts provide a wealth of information on a broad variety of topics.

Visit [blueboat.blogs.uua.org](http://blueboat.blogs.uua.org).

## Exciting Training Resource:



What does faith formation look like in the 21st century? How can we use new digital media, social media, and web technologies to respond to the spiritual needs of our communities? How do we design and curate personalized faith formation networks for all generations—accessible 24/7/365?

These provocative questions are crucial to our ability to serve our communities in the 21st century; they're also the core of a training called **The Vision and Practice of 21st Century Faith Formation**, a three-day interactive and intensive educational program for ministers, faith formation leaders, and staff in congregations.

Many UUA national and district staff, and a cohort of religious professionals and lay leaders, have attended this training—including four members of the **Multicultural Growth and Witness** staff group. It has given us a common language and tools for curating and delivering personalized resources to communities across the association.

For more information on this phenomenal training, visit [youthandfamilyinstitute.org/faith-formation-training.html](http://youthandfamilyinstitute.org/faith-formation-training.html) or email us at [catalyst@uua.org!](mailto:catalyst@uua.org)



Images from [uua.org](http://uua.org)

## New Landing Page:

Have you visited our website lately? A few of our newest offerings include: a list of [entry points and UU programs](#) for engaging in multicultural ministry; the brand-new UUA [study guide](#) for *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, the UUA's 2012-2013 Common Read; background on the [Doctrine of Discovery](#) resolution from Justice General Assembly and how to take action; and information about the [Multicultural Leadership Institute](#). Visit our Racial Justice and Multicultural Ministries website at [www.uua.org/multiculturalism](http://www.uua.org/multiculturalism), and let us know what you think!

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

## The Multicultural Ministries Team of the UUA



Janice Marie Johnson



Tracy Ahlquist



Annette Marquis



Alex Kapitan

The programs and services of the UUA are made possible by the generosity of individual donors and gifts to the Annual Program Fund. Please consider making a donation today to sustain our work: [uua.org/giving/apf](http://uua.org/giving/apf).