

CATALYST

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES REGARDING RACIAL AND ETHNIC CONCERNS



Photos by Terasa Cooley, Lauren Mercier, Annette Marquis, Mark Ward, and Nancy Pierce

New Year's Greetings!



Photo by Lesley Murdock

Dearest colleagues, we hope that the holidays brought you comfort and respite, in the company of good friends and loving family. 2012 was a year filled with many exciting opportunities, and 2013 promises to be full to bursting as well. We look forward to engaging with you in the important work of building inclusive, multicultural Beloved Community in the year to come—whether on our Facebook group, at General Assembly, at the next Mosaic Makers Conference, or elsewhere. All blessings to you in the new year!

Multicultural Leadership Institute:

On January 8, 2013, **Janice Marie Johnson** will offer a program to the community of **Meadville Lombard Theological School**.

Her presentation, "The Joys and Opportunities of Multiculturalism," will reflect on the multicultural present and future of Unitarian Universalism. Janice will lead participants in an exploration of the vibrant work of people in congregations across the country and globe as they creatively embrace the strengths and challenges of multicultural engagement in their congregations and in their communities.

Janice's work with the Meadville community stems from the Multicultural Leadership Institute, the leadership development initiative designed to equip and nurture professional and lay religious leaders committed to creating intentionally welcoming, inclusive, justice-centered, multicultural ministries.

Upcoming Event:

Allies for Racial Equity (ARE) will hold its annual conference in partnership with the **UU Church of Rockford, IL** on March 15-17, 2013. This gathering offers Unitarian Universalists who identify as white the opportunity to develop their anti-racist and anti-oppressive analysis & practice.

The theme for this year's conference is "Cultural Humility: Developing Intercultural Competency;" the keynote addresses will be delivered by Beth Zemsky and Matt Meyer, and the entire weekend promises to be deeply engaging!

For more information and to register, visit alliesforracial-equity.wildapricot.org/ARECONINFO2013.



Compelling New Resource:

Have you seen the brand-new “**Reproductive Justice: Expanding Our Social Justice Calling**” curriculum for congregations? This valuable resource, released on November 26, is designed to equip UUs with tools for effective public advocacy, to tie us with our theological and historical resources, to help us understand the complexities of reproductive justice, and to strengthen our relationships with each other.



Photos by Nancy Pierce

When delegates chose reproductive justice as the UUA’s next Congregational Study/Action Issue at Justice General Assembly, the Unitarian Universalist Association made history as the first religious organization to officially support reproductive justice. As a result, we now have an opportunity to educate and act on a broader and deeper level around reproductive issues. The movement for reproductive justice was founded by women of color whose reproductive “choices” were impacted by more than the legality of abortion—and the movement continues to be led by people of color organizations like SisterSong, Forward Together (formerly Asian Communities for Reproductive Justice), the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health, Strong Families, and others. Reproductive justice centers around the human right to parent when and how one desires to, and the reproductive and sexual wholeness of all people and communities.

By aligning ourselves with the reproductive justice movement, Unitarian Universalists are choosing to ground our advocacy efforts in community partnerships and anti-racism theory and practice. Indeed, the work that UUs continue to do around anti-racism, anti-oppression, and multiculturalism is as strong an inspiration to our participation in reproductive justice as our long and impressive history advocating for reproductive rights.

There has never been a better time for progressive people of faith to work for reproductive justice. If we are to sustain a long and challenging public campaign with integrity, we must ground ourselves in Unitarian Universalist history and theology, and in relationship to each other and our reproductive justice partners.

To download “Reproductive Justice: Expanding Our Social Justice Calling,” visit www.uua.org/reproductive/calling/curriculum/index.shtml. For more reproductive justice resources, visit UUA.org/reproductive.



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



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