

Bright Light Challenge: Religious Educators creating Teachable Moments with Human Rights

December 10 of this year marks the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. To celebrate, UUSC is holding a Bright Light Challenge for professional religious educators. **Three winners will each receive a \$500 scholarship towards the cost of a UUSC- or LREDA-sponsored activity or event.**

UUSC is seeking fun, creative, and interactive ideas for how communities can celebrate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its connections to the work of UUSC and its four program focus areas:

- **Civil Liberties**
- **Economic Justice**
- **Environmental Justice**
- **Rights in Humanitarian Crises**

You are invited to submit your ideas in the form of a plan for a “learning experience” — it could be a worship service, a religious education lesson or series of lessons, a family activities night, a social action project, an online activity, an art project, or anything else you may envision.

All submissions will be posted (anonymously) on UUSC’s website so that everyone in the religious education community, and beyond, can read them and try them out, free of charge. The only thing that we ask is that if you do try one yourself, you post your comments about how it went.

In May 2009 a panel composed of two staff from UUSC and one professional religious educator will review all of the submissions and comments. Together, they will select three winning entries.

Please go to UUSC’s website (www.uusc.org/REcontest) for more information on the contest requirements and how you can enter to win a \$500 scholarship!

UUSC would like to thank Ruth Owen, DRE at First Church in Boston, for her indispensable help in developing this contest and writing its guidelines.



Dignity and justice for all of us

CONTEST GUIDELINES

I. REQUIRED ELEMENTS

Learning or experiential objectives (what you want participants to take away with them).

A clear description of the “learning experience” itself, including the time you expect it to take, the room or space requirements (or the hardware/software requirements if it is an online activity), a list of materials needed, sources (preferably free and online) for any music or readings required, and a timeline breakdown of the experience itself.

Your experience should explore UDHR through the work of UUSC, especially UUSC’s mission, vision, or one or more of the four program focus areas:

- Civil Liberties
- Economic Justice
- Environmental Justice
- Rights in Humanitarian Crises

For more information about UUSC and the four program focus areas, visit www.uusc.org.

A leaders’ guide that includes the ideal characteristics of activity leaders (e.g., age, life experience, any special skills, etc.), background materials for leaders, perhaps a spiritual centering activity for leaders and/or a way to debrief after the experience, and a detailed explanation of how to implement the experience.

Specification of the age ranges you think your experience is suitable for, and suggestions about how to adapt it for other ages, if appropriate. You may design the activity exclusively for one age range, if you choose, or make it multigenerational. You should include a few sentences about the developmental characteristics (both emotional/psychological and faith development) of your targeted age range, and how your activity is appropriate for them.

A bibliography. If you use any stories, poetry, pictures, or music that are not your own original creation, you must give full references. If you use an activity from a previously published source (like a curriculum or worship guide), please acknowledge it and, in certain cases, get permission first.

II. JUDGING CRITERIA

1. How well does the “learning experience” incorporate UUSC’s mission and/or program focus areas?
2. Is the plan viable and usable by religious educators, and other UUSC members and supporters, in the UU community and beyond?
3. How creative and thoughtful are the plan’s objectives?
4. What did other religious educators who tried the plan have to say?

III. SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES

Send your submission electronically in a MS Word file to UUSC at awards@uusc.org no later than 4:59 p.m. (E.T.) on April 30, 2009. Please note that the earlier you send in your contest entry, the more opportunities there will be for others to test your activity and post comments.

IV. OWNERSHIP/USE RIGHTS

UUSC reserves the right to publish your lesson plan. All entries may be used in UUSC’s online and print publications. Submitted materials will not be returned. Please do not send your only copy of your lesson plan or lesson materials.

Questions? Please email questions to awards@uusc.org.