

## Social Justice Action

**“The planet does not need more successful people. But it does desperately need more peacemakers, healers, restorers, storytellers, and lovers of every kind. It needs people who live well in their places. It needs people of moral courage willing to join the fight to make the world habitable and humane. And these qualities have little to do with success as we have defined it.”**

David W. Orr

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**If you have something YOU are passionate about, please tell us so we can spread the word.**

## UUCSW Service Project

**Social Justice FAMILY Event – Please mark your calendar.**

**When – Sunday May 5, 12:00 – 12:30 PM**

**Where – In our very own church kitchen.**

What – Pack meals. We will be packing meals for people in a homeless shelter in Worcester. *There will be jobs for all ages.* We deliver 100 meals on Sunday and they are handed out the next two days. The shelter does NOT provide lunches so this is a big help for people.

So this is a story about getting out of your comfort zone. I know for most of us we getting very accustomed to going along with the way we've always done things. But somebody asked me the other day about the word integrity. I think that's very relevant to us and our comfort zones. Integrity to me means having an integral sense of who you are; and how you behave as a result of who you believe you are. In other words, your actions match your words. For most of us we have great intentions but when it actually comes to doing things we're nowhere near as good as our intentions.

So here's the story. I have a friend I'll call “B”. B has been very involved in social justice issues at her Unitarian Universalist church and she is especially involved in immigrant justice issues. In fact, she previously went so far as to volunteer at a sanctuary where a refugee was being housed so as to protect him from ICE officials. That stint has now ended.

So B is wondering what does she do next; what can she do that can provide the Integrity that can take her values and put them into practice.

B was asked if she would volunteer to house a young man who has claimed sanctuary in this country. Let's call him “R”. R is from Nicaragua and is 22 years old. He lived in a shanty town in Nicaragua and a gang decided that they wanted to have his family home. The gang murdered his father, and his sister and brother and R was in great danger. He travelled to the United States and claimed asylum at the Mexican border. ICE brought him to Boston where he was jailed. A local organization that gets asylum seekers out of detention was able to post bond for him and so he is now out of jail and able to work with a lawyer on his asylum case. R was moving from home to home looking for a settled place. He was working part time and not getting paid for the hours he was working. He quit that job.

So B invited R to live in her spare bedroom. They are very different people with a huge age difference. B speaks no Spanish, and R speaks no English. They communicate via Google translate. It's a big adjustment for B who has enjoyed living alone for a long time. R has now found another job and able to send most of the money back to his grandmother in Nicaragua. He's met people his own age playing soccer. He's adjusting and starting to build a life here.

Those details are relevant, but they aren't the main story. In my mind, the important story is how B was able to get out of her comfort zone and start a totally new relationship that yields tremendous benefits for herself and for R. My leap would probably be very different from hers, but I wish I had the courage to get out of my comfort zone!

These connections were made through BIJAN – you can find them at <https://beyondbondboston.org/>

Jerry Breecher is the editor of this Social Justice Action sheet. I welcome any and all notices you would like to place here. Inherent in any such listing as this is a point of view – your point of view may differ from mine, but I would be truly delighted to express your social action agenda here. Jerry@Breecher.com