



# NEWS FROM THE MARGINS

UNITY TEMPLE'S LGBTQ+/GENDER & REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE TEAM NEWSLETTER



INTERNATIONAL  
WOMEN'S DAY



SCAN ME FOR  
PREVIOUS EDITIONS!



*International Women's Day March 8, 2026*

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender equality. IWD began in 1911. Today IWD belongs to all groups collectively everywhere. IWD is not country group or organization specific. It is a movement powered by the collective efforts of all.

## 2026 OLYMPIC GOLD AND MISOGYNY

The US Women's Hockey Team Won the Gold Medal at the 2026 Winter Olympic Games. And by the way, so did the U.S. Men's Hockey Team. Sadly, the president of the United States tarnished both wins as only he could. The president made a stupid sexist statement about the women's team and the "boys in the locker room" laughed. Is this a teachable moment? Jessica Valenti offers one perspective in "[The U. S Men's Hockey Team Failed the Locker Room Test: Men Need to Stop Bonding Over Women's Humiliation](#)" Feb. 24, 2026 by Jessica Valenti

### LGBTQ+

TaskForce Prevention along with PrEP4Teens are featured in a New York Times article about HIV funding cuts and how those decisions impact local organizations in our communities. [Read More](#)

### GENDER

Unity Temple UU Congregation of Oak Park held both the Men's Retreat and the Women's Retreat in Feb-March 2026. Our next issue will provide a report on those two events. Look for it.

### REPRODUCTIVE

The Illinois Choice Action Team needs Clinic Escort Volunteers for weekdays at Downers Grove clinic and at their Chicago clinic. This requires a 2 hour training with ICAT. For more information email [icatescorts@gmail.com](mailto:icatescorts@gmail.com) 1

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

### Monthly LGBTQ+/Gender & Reproductive Leadership Team Meetings:

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month at 7:00pm

March 9<sup>th</sup> & April 13<sup>th</sup>

Zoom Link:



### Families with Gender Diverse Children:

During the school months September through May, this support group for all members of families with gender diverse kids generally meets monthly in Oak Park. Format is informal conversations and connection. This is a family friendly event with nut free snacks and a playroom for children. For details about meetings, contact [familysupport@unitytemple.org](mailto:familysupport@unitytemple.org)

### Have a comment, idea, or suggestion?

Email us at: [LGBTQGenderReproductive@UnityTemple.org](mailto:LGBTQGenderReproductive@UnityTemple.org)

## UNITY TEMPLE'S COMUNITY CENTER BLOOD DRIVE

**SPONSORED BY: LBGTQ+/GENDER/REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE FAITH ACTION TEAM**

**CO-SPONSORS: OUT WITH PURPOSE – FORMERLY OPALGA+**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 21 9:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.**

**SCAN HERE TO SCHEDULE**

**MULTI PURPOSE ROOM**

**1019 SOUTH BLVD, OAK PARK, IL 60302**

**CALL VITALANT AT 877.258.4825 TO CONFIRM YOUR ELIGIBILITY AND CHECK MEDICATION.**

**TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT, VISIT VITALANT.ORG AND USE**

**BLOOD DRIVE CODE: 10055939 OR SCAN THE QR CODE.**



## DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE UU WOMEN (+)'S FEDERATION?

Here's a sample of what they are about and information on an upcoming workshop for members. If you are curious about UUWF, we encourage you to explore their website. The merchandise alone might put a smile on your face. If online window shopping isn't your thing, the herstory, intersectionality, advocacy, support and inspirational opportunities are certain to bring a ray of hope and pride.

<https://uuwf.org/>

**A Voice for Women+** \* Building covenantal relationships among Unitarian Universalist women+ that equip us all to be better co-conspirators and allies in the movement for collective liberation. It has always been the UUWF's wish to join wholeheartedly with people everywhere in striving for universal human dignity, freedom, and peace.

\*We believe that trans women are women, without exception. We believe that gender-expansive, nonbinary, IndigiQueer, or two-spirit people who feel most comfortable in/identify with women's spaces should be welcomed and included in our work. When we say women+, we include these people.

**UUWF is an affiliate of the Unitarian Universalist Association**

## AN IMPORTANT LOUISIANA COURT CASE ON TELE-HEALTH, ABORTION PILLS AND PROVIDERS WILL HAVE NATIONAL CONSEQUENCES

**“ABORTION ACCESS SAVES LIVES, REDUCES MATERNAL AND INFANT MORTALITY, NARROWS RACIAL HEALTH DISPARITIES, AND PROTECTS SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE. TELEHEALTH IS THE MECHANISM THROUGH WHICH MILLIONS OF PATIENTS ACCESS THAT CARE. RESTRICTING IT WOULD NOT PROTECT ANYONE; IT WOULD CAUSE THE GRAVEST HARM TO THOSE WHO CAN LEAST AFFORD IT.”**

POINTS FROM THE FEB. 24, 2026 AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION (ACLU) MEMO:

- MIFEPRISTONE HAS BEEN USED FOR OVER 20 YEARS AND IS VERY SAFE AND EFFECTIVE
- RESTRICTING ACCESS TO MIFEPRISTONE WILL CAUSE IRREPARABLE HARM TO THE MANY AMERICANS WHO FACE INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE
- RESTRICTIONS WOULD DEEPEN THE ALREADY SUBSTANTIAL BARRIERS DISABLED PEOPLE FACE IN ACCESSING HEALTH CARE
- ABORTION CARE MAY BE OUT OF REACH FOR MANY, MIFEPRISTONE IS REGULARLY USED TO TREAT MISCARRIAGES, AND MISOPROSTOL IS FREQUENTLY USED DURING LABOR AND DELIVERY

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Brown Elephant HIV/STI Screening**  
5404 N Clark Street; Andersonville  
Wednesdays 1-5pm  
773-271-9382

**Rainbow Connections**  
March 19, 7-8:30pm  
April 19, 7-8:30pm  
Email [rainbow@unitytemple.org](mailto:rainbow@unitytemple.org)

**Rally & March for Int'l Women's Day!**  
March 8, 11:30am  
Daley Plaza 50 West Washington Street  
Marching to Trump Tower 98 E Wacker Dr.

**NO KINGS!**  
March 28, 11am  
Scoville Park 800 Lake St.

**Light the Way Soiree**  
March 21, 7pm  
<https://www.transupfrontil.com/lighttheway>

**Rally for Visibility**  
March 30, 1pm  
Federal Plaza, Chicago  
<https://chicagosocialbutterflies.com/event/rally-for-trans-visibility/>

**TDOV Protest**  
April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1pm-3pm  
Federal Plaza, Chicago

## LGBTQ, GENDER AND REPRODUCTIVE AWARENESS DAYS

### March

Bisexual Health Awareness Month & Endometriosis Month  
March 8<sup>th</sup> International Womens Day  
March 10<sup>th</sup> National Women & Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day  
March 20<sup>th</sup> National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day  
March 31<sup>st</sup> Trans Day of Visibility

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### April

STD Awareness Month  
National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month  
April 6<sup>th</sup> International Asexuality Day  
April 7<sup>th</sup> World Health Day  
April 11-17<sup>th</sup> Black Maternal Health Week  
April 26<sup>th</sup> Lesbian Visibility Day

## UNITARIAN PERSON OF INTEREST



**Unitarian Universalist Association President Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt is recipient of the National LGBTQ Task Force’s Faith Award**

**“SHE HAS CENTERED THE NARRATIVE OF AUTHENTICITY AND LIVED EXPERIENCE, WHICH FORTIFIES A THEOLOGY THAT PROTECTS THE SACRED DIGNITY OF ALL PEOPLE AND WORKS FOR THEIR LIBERATION IN AN UNJUST WORLD”**

For her leadership in fighting for liberation for all, Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt, the first out, queer President of the UUA, has received this year’s Faith Award at Creating Change, the annual conference of the National LGBTQ Task Force. The task force is dedicated to achieving freedom and justice for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer people, and their families through proactive, targeted, change-inducing initiatives.

<https://www.uuworld.org/articles/faith-award-uaa-president-sofia-betancourt-lgbtq-rights>

## HOW TO TEACH A CHILD TO PRAY BY FRANK X WALKER

Humiliate her mother at every checkpoint.  
Replace the Second Surah with air raids and shelling.

Reduce everything she knows to rubble.  
Bury her younger brother under his school.

Laugh when she raises her hands in front of her face  
and asks your God for peace.

Surveil her dreams of clean water and fresh bread.  
Reduce everything she knows to rubble, again.

Direct her to ignore the smell of decaying bodies  
when bowing down to perform Ruku.

Strip search her grandparents in the street  
— let her hold their shame.

Expect her gratitude for being able to count  
on one hand cousins who have one hand.

Teach her to dread shelters and refugee camps  
instead of periods.

Assume her capacity to forgive will be longer  
than her memory.

Dare her to stand up and repeat  
“allah hu akbar.”