

# Guest at Your Table: Sample Announcements

## Promote Guest at Your Table in your congregation

Publicizing Guest at Your Table and sharing information about your fellow congregants' participation are keys to conducting a successful program. Use these sample announcements and articles during worship services and committee meetings, in newsletters, on websites and in group e-mails as a way to promote and celebrate your congregation's Guest at Your Table participation.

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## Samples to use before your program begins

### Sample A

#### **It's time to welcome a Guest at Your Table!**

On [date], we'll open our Guest at Your Table program with an intergenerational worship celebration.

When we bring home our Guest at Your Table boxes and place them prominently where we regularly gather, our families and friends have the chance to delve into several real struggles for justice and how UUSC advances human rights in the United States and around the world.

With each box comes a copy of *Stories of Hope*, which helps children, youth, and adults learn more about how UUSC works to change our world for the better. The stories introduce human-rights champions like Carolina Lara, a youth leader of a movement in Ecuador that successfully lobbied to have the human right to water included in the country's new constitution.

Consider making it part of a mealtime ritual to read through one of the stories and discuss its meaning and how we can help. When we share our blessings with our "guests," we ensure that UUSC and people like Carolina can continue their important work.

And, thanks to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, N.Y., gifts **of \$100 or more are eligible to be matched**, dollar for dollar, doubling the impact of your support!

*If you miss picking up your Guest at Your Table box and Stories of Hope, you can do so at [place] or by talking with [name], our UUSC local representative.*



## Sample B

### Welcoming a Guest at Your Table

Each year at this time, friends and families in our congregation participate in Guest at Your Table — a UU tradition.

By bringing home a beautiful Guest at Your Table box, families and individuals learn about how the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee puts our shared values into action in the United States and around the world. Through a potent combination of advocacy, education, and partnerships with grassroots organizations, UUSC promotes [economic rights](#), advances [environmental justice](#), defends [civil liberties](#), and preserves the rights of people in times of [humanitarian crisis](#).

Through the *Stories of Hope* booklet, we connect with people in the United States and around the world who have shared their personal struggles and are working hard for human rights in partnership with UUSC.

In each household, the Guest at Your Table box is placed in a prominent spot, often at the family meal table. When family and friends gather to enjoy their blessings, they can reflect on the contributions of their “guests” to the movement for universal human rights — and share generously. Each week, we can choose a different story to read, bringing our guests to life and helping celebrate our own rights.

Sharing our blessings through Guest at Your Table ensures that UUSC's human-rights work continues. Please consider making a contribution that meets membership levels. Since UUSC is an independent organization that receives no funding from the UUA or the U.S. government, UUSC members are vitally important.

If you would prefer not to bring home a box, you can take a donation envelope or support UUSC directly online at [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org).

We will open our Guest at Your Table program with an intergenerational worship celebration on [date].



## Samples to use during your program

### Sample A

#### **Celebrate the Guest at Your Table!**

Our Guest at Your Table program is going strong! So many families and friends have brought human rights home and welcomed our “guests” into their lives.

Thanks to your support, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is working throughout the United States and around the world to advance human rights. Your beautiful Guest at Your Table box and *Stories of Hope* booklet introduce you to people whose lives have been changed by this work.

Each week, with family and friends, we can focus on a different person's story of hope as we sit down to meals together and consider our many blessings.

This week, meet Opoka Kenneth, a young man who has recently returned to his village in Uganda after a brutal civil war tore apart the country. He is working with other young people to plow fields for others in the village who are unable to do physical labor. Together, they are rebuilding their homes and revitalizing their culture. Let's reflect on what coming home means to Opoka and others in his community. Consider what even a small gift to this Guest at Your Table will mean to other villagers, still living in camps, who will have the support they need to return home.

You can learn more about UUSC's work to preserve rights and dignity in humanitarian crisis online at [www.uusc.org/humanitariancrises](http://www.uusc.org/humanitariancrises).\*

*If you have not yet picked up your Guest at Your Table box and Stories of Hope, you can do so at [location] or by talking with [name], our UUSC local representative (or Guest at Your Table coordinator).*

*Your generosity with the Guest at Your Table is tax deductible! Be sure to complete the form on your box. And remember, gifts of \$100 are eligible to be matched by the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock, to double the impact of your support!*

**\*For each subsequent week, revise the first paragraph and replace the fourth and fifth paragraphs with one of the following items:**

This week, meet Maral, a teacher in Afghanistan who participated in the Teacher Training for Human Rights created by Barakat and UUSC. Now, she has the tools and knowledge to teach her students about their rights. She has also learned to train other teachers through this program. This training in human rights has



empowered Maral and countless students. Consider what even a small gift to this Guest at Your Table will mean to children in Afghanistan who will gain the opportunity to learn about their rights.

You can learn more about UUSC's work to defend civil liberties at home and abroad online at [www.uusc.org/civilliberties](http://www.uusc.org/civilliberties).

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This week, meet Carmen Molina, a Guatemalan woman who witnessed many injustices over two decades working on a banana plantation. Moved to take action, Carmen joined and then became a leader in UUSC partner STITCH, an organization that helps workers defend their rights. Think about what it means to women like Carmen to be able to stand up and become leaders in their workplaces, helping support and connect other women. And consider what even a small gift to this Guest at Your Table will mean to the members of STITCH who are organizing women workers in Central America and the United States.

You can learn more about UUSC's work to protect workers' rights online at [www.uusc.org/economic\\_justice](http://www.uusc.org/economic_justice).

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This week, meet Carolina Lara, a youth leader with the Mi Cometa Movimiento (the "My Kite Movement") in Ecuador, who advocated for the human right to water. Carolina organized a youth bus tour that was instrumental in enshrining this right in the country's new constitution. Contemplate what it means to the people of Ecuador to know that they now have a constitutionally protected right to water and can seek justice when water service is shut off or unclean water makes them sick. Also consider what even a small gift to this Guest at Your Table will mean to Carolina as she works for implementation of this new right and to activists around the world who are still striving for recognition of the human right to water.

You can learn more about UUSC's work on the human right to water online at [www.uusc.org/righttowater](http://www.uusc.org/righttowater).

## Sample B

### **Time to collect your Guest at Your Table!**

On [date], we'll close our Guest at Your Table program with an intergenerational worship celebration.

In recent weeks, UUSC Guest at Your Table boxes and *Stories of Hope* have taught us about real people engaged in struggles for justice in the United States



and around the world. It has also taught us about our power to change the world when we share our blessings to support the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and the many amazing people they partner with.

Before bringing back your Guest at Your Table box, be sure to **complete the form on the box**. And please convert your cash and coins to a check made out to "UUSC."

We'll announce the results of our Guest at Your Table program as soon as possible. On behalf of UUSC, we thank and commend every person who has chosen to share their blessings through Guest at Your Table.

If you miss bringing back your Guest at Your Table box during the closing celebration, please return it to [name], our UUSC local representative (or Guest at Your Table coordinator), at your earliest opportunity.



## Samples to use after the close of your program

### A few suggestions for how to celebrate the amount your congregation raises:

- Report how many memberships the program raised and urge your congregation to strive toward a goal this year — for instance, 50 percent of congregants being UUSC members by the end of the church year.
- Consider sharing the good you have done in the giving levels outlined below; you may also wish to use these numbers during your program to show people the tangible impact their gift can make.

### Sample A

#### A celebration of another successful Guest at Your Table program!

Friends,

Congratulations! This year we were able to raise [\$ amount] through our Guest at Your Table program. Plus, our gifts of \$100 or more are eligible to be matched dollar for dollar, thanks to the generosity of the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, N.Y.

#### How Your Gift to UUSC Translates into Human Rights

Your generous gift for Guest at Your Table is unrestricted, which means that UUSC will use it where the need is greatest. The following list illustrates the many ways in which UUSC translates our donors' support into tangible projects to advance human rights and social justice around the world:

*[[Click to find examples of the impact of various levels of giving](#) and add them to your announcement.]*

