



Leading Congregations into a Multiracial, Multicultural Future: now is the time!



In 1997 the General Assembly made a commitment to move toward becoming an antiracist, anti-oppressive, multicultural Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. Again in 2006, members of the UUA passed a General Assembly Responsive Resolution that seeks to address behaviors towards people of color in our own congregations and communities, revealing that it is essential for UUs to continue with this important work as we seek to build just and inclusive communities. This work is ongoing and underlines a commitment that is rooted in Unitarian Universalist identity, theology, and values.

- ◆ In a world of blue and red states, of the radical right and far left, of fundamentalism and apathy; in a world where “the other” is distrusted and feared
- ◆ In a world in need of the hope that beloved community can be made more real by human intention and conscious faithfulness
- ◆ In this world where Unitarian Universalists are called to affirm and promote respect, justice, interdependence and to honor many sources of wisdom and truth

Now is the time for Unitarian Universalists to **learn, to lead, to grow**

UUA 2008 National Conference

SAN JOSE CA

FEBRUARY 22-24, 2008



Leading Congregations into a Multiracial, Multicultural Future Future: now is the time!



Some of our member congregations have done significant work on issues of racism, classism, and multiculturalism using resources provided by the UUA and others. **Leading Congregations into a Multiracial, Multicultural Future: now is the time!** Is an exceptional opportunity to reinvigorate your commitment, meet other UUs involved in this work, and learn practical and meaningful processes and activities to take back to your congregation. Teams from congregations are especially welcomed to respond more fully to conference offerings.

The Reverend Jacqueline Lewis, PhD

The UUA is delighted to welcome back Reverend Lewis for our Friday **keynote program**. Lewis is the Senior Minister of Vision, Worship and the Arts at Middle Collegiate Church in New York City. Prior to joining the Middle Church staff in 2004, Jacqui was the project consultant for the Cultural Boundaries Project at the Alban Institute, where her work focused on **negotiating cultural boundaries**, conflict management, leadership development and spirituality. Jacqui is **passionate about developing leadership** in multicultural/multiracial churches. She says, "We don't need communities of people pretending to be all the same, but rather communities in which the unique particularity of each person is recognized, accepted and affirmed." Reverend Lewis earned her Masters of Divinity at Princeton Seminary and her Ph.D. at Drew University in Psychology and Religion. Her doctoral thesis was narrative identity study of clergy who serve multiracial/multicultural congregations. After seminary, Jacqui served two congregations in urban Trenton, New Jersey, including a new church development project, the Imani Community Church (PCUSA) and the Imani Community Center, for which she was the organizing pastor. This predominantly African American church built a multicultural membership and served the community's families and children with creative worship and economic development. Dr. Lewis' keynote speech on Friday will be followed by a day-long workshop including small group conversation and in-depth exploration of what it means to lead a congregation into a multi-racial, multi-cultural future.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2008

Dr. Shakti Butler*
of World Trust Educational Services, Inc.
Presents

Mirrors of Privilege: Mirrors of Change



**A Heart-to-Heart Conversations™ program
based on the film, *Mirrors of Privilege:
Making Whiteness Visible***

Spend time unwrapping, healing, learning and engaging in dialogue that promotes transformation related to unconscious aspects of bias, privilege and racism. We will work with ***Mirrors of Privilege: Making Whiteness Visible***, a film that features the experiences of white women and men who have worked to gain insight into what it means to challenge notions of racism and white supremacy in the United States. They model and reveal what is often required to expose and move beyond the denial, defensiveness, guilt, fear and shame that help keep systemic racism in place without people of color being forced into the limited role of “teacher”. We will spend time building community together. We will gather and use the power and truth found within our own stories to think about racism at 3 distinct levels – personal/interpersonal, community/cultural and institutional/systemic. The idea is to illumine possibilities for creating a new action story; a story of truth, justice and empowerment for participating in the creation of a world that we want to live in and leave for those who will follow.



*The conference is pleased to welcome Dr. Shakti Butler, an inspirational facilitator, trainer and lecturer to our conference as Saturday's morning speaker. Dr. Butler is a multiracial African-American woman - (African, Arawak Indian, and Russian-Jewish). Her work as a creative and visionary bridge builder has challenged and inspired learning for over twenty-one years. Shakti is also the producer and director of the groundbreaking documentaries, [*The Way Home*](#) and [*Light in the Shadows*](#) and [*Mirrors of Privilege: Making Whiteness Visible*](#), which is World Trust's latest release.

In 1994, as Executive Director of World Trust Educational Services, Inc., Dr. Butler designed and launched *Heart to Heart Conversations™*, a national program of public dialogue designed to help people learn together and share deep feelings about race and culture. This program has gained recognition and been reviewed on both local and national television. Her videos serve as catalysts for dialogue and set the context for constructive conversations on oppression through the lens of race. Shakti's work moves conversations beyond black and white and speaks to the interconnectedness of racism, classism, sexism, and homophobia.

SATURDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 23, 2008





1997 Business Resolution

WHEREAS the 1996 General Assembly resolved that all congregations, districts, organizations, and professional and lay leaders participate in a reflection-action process throughout the 1996-97 church year using the Congregational Reflection and Action Process Guide and the Anti-Racism Assessment; and

WHEREAS our Unitarian Universalist principles call us to affirm and promote "justice, equity, and compassion in human relations" and "the goal of world community"; and

WHEREAS our history as Unitarian Universalists includes evidence of both great commitment and individual achievement in the struggle for racial justice as well as the failure of our Unitarian Universalist institutions to respond fully to the call for justice; and

WHEREAS racism and its effects, including economic injustice, are embedded in all social institutions as well as in ourselves and will not be eradicated without deliberate engagement in analysis and action; and

WHEREAS because of the impact of racism on all people, and the interconnection among oppressions, we realize we need to make an institutional commitment to end racism; and

WHEREAS the social, economic, and ecological health of our planet is imperiled by the deepening divisions in our world caused by inequitable and unjust distribution of power and resources; and

WHEREAS we are called yet again by our commitment to faith in action to pursue this anti-racist, multi-cultural initiative in the spirit of justice, compassion, and community;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 1997 General Assembly urges Unitarian Universalists to examine carefully their own conscious and unconscious racism as participants in a racist society, and the effect that racism has on all our lives, regardless of color.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly urges the Unitarian Universalist Association, its congregations, and community organizations to develop an ongoing process for the comprehensive institutionalization of anti-racism and multi-culturalism, understanding that whether or not a group becomes multi-racial, there is always the opportunity to become anti-racist. Early steps toward anti-racism might include using curricula such as Journey Toward Wholeness for all age groups, forming racial justice committees, and conducting anti-racism workshops.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly urges all Unitarian Universalist leaders, including ministers, religious educators, leaders of associate and affiliate organizations, governing boards, Unitarian Universalist Association staff, theological schools, and future General Assemblies to engage in ongoing anti-racism training, to examine basic assumptions, structures, and functions, and, in response to what is learned, to develop action plans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Unitarian Universalists are encouraged to enter into relationships of sustained engagement with all people of color with a goal of opening up authentic dialogue that may include, but is not limited to, race and racism. Such dialogue should also include how to appropriately honor and affirm the cultural traditions of all people of color.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly requests that the UUA Board of Trustees establish a committee to monitor and assess our transformation as an anti-racist, multi-cultural institution, and that the Board of Trustees shall report annually to the General Assembly specifically on the programs and resources dedicated to assisting our congregations in carrying out the objectives of this resolution.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that in order to transform the racist institutions of our world, the General Assembly urges the Unitarian Universalist Association and all its parts to establish relationships with other international and interfaith organizations that are working to dismantle racism.

2006 Responsive Resolution

Resolved, that the Delegates to General Assembly are charged to work with their congregations to hold at least one program over the next year to address racism or classism, and to report on that program at next year's General Assembly.



Program Schedule

FRIDAY, February 22, 2008

- 8:15 AM coffee and social time
- 9:00 AM opening worship and welcome
- 10:15 AM break
- 10:30 AM keynote with Rev. Lewis, PhD
- 12:30 PM lunch together
- 1:30 PM afternoon program with Rev. Lewis, PhD
- 3:00 PM break and drinks
- 3:30 PM afternoon program continues
- 5:30 PM break
- 6:00 PM dinner together
- 7:15 PM Friday program wrap-up
- 8:45 PM 15-minute meditation and closing

DYNAMIC, INTERACTIVE, EXPRESSIVE

Saturday, February 23, 2008

- 8:15 AM coffee and social time
- 8:45 AM opening worship and welcome
- 9:15 AM morning program with Dr. Butler
- 10:30 AM mid-morning break
- 10:45 AM continue with morning program
- 12:30 PM lunch together
- 1:45 PM workshops begin
- 3:00 PM break and drinks
- 3:30 PM continue with your workshop
- 5:15 PM Saturday program wrap-up
- 5:30 PM Saturday program ends

EDUCATIONAL, INNOVATIVE, MEANINGFUL

SUNDAY, February 24, 2008

- 8:45 AM meet in lobby for transportation to service
- 9:30 AM attend Spanish-English bilingual service at First Unitarian Church of San José
- 11:00 AM return to Doubletree Hotel for brunch and closing
- 1:00 PM conference ends

*Information available at a later date

REGISTER NOW!!!

<http://www.uua.org/events/multiracialmulticultural/index.shtml>

Conference Location

Doubletree Hotel
2050 Gateway Place
San Jose, CA
Phone: 408-453-4000
http://doubletree1.hilton.com/en_US/dt/index.do

UUA Conference Contact

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The National Conference, "Now Is The Time", is a program of Congregational Services at the Unitarian Universalist Association, 25 Beacon Street, Boston MA 02108. Like the host of other services for congregations, this conference is possible, in part, because of congregations' generous support of the Annual Program Fund of the UUA. Inquiries about this conference and other services offered by Congregational Services and the UUA should be directed to Diane Martin, Congregational Services Administrator, 617-948-6461 or dmartin@uua.org. Or visit our website at www.uua.org

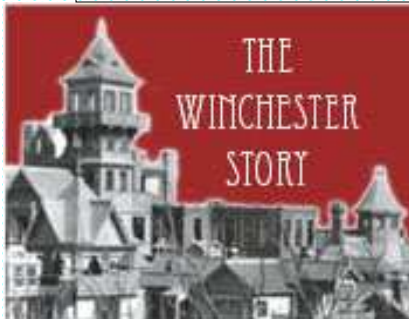


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This year's conference is at the beautiful Doubletree Hotel San Jose, 1/2 mile from the airport and minutes from downtown. This California city offers a wide range of fun activities and if you've never been to San Francisco, that's only an hour's ride north.



Get to know San Jose—it's museums, light rail system, parks, winery, music, the Mexican Heritage Plaza, and numerous other attractions!



Catch "Swan Lake" performed by the premier Ballet San Jose, or hear "Rigoletto" by Opera San Jose. There are numerous stage companies performing in the area. Santa Clara County has wonderful hiking and beach combing is just a short drive. And don't forget to try one of San Jose's brew pubs or visit the tasting room at the J. Lohr Winery right in town. There's plenty to do and delicious food at some of the Bay Area's best dining spots.

