

**Lifespan Faith Development
Board of Trustees Report
April 2007**

**Judith A. Frediani, Director of Lifespan Faith Development
Adrienne Ross, Project Manager and Office Manager**

Life becomes religious whenever we make it so...
Sophia Lyon Fahs

Our job in Lifespan Faith Development is to help people make life religious – help make our lives meaningful, ethical, spiritual, connected, mindful.

Below you will find some of the new resources we are working on, updated from our progress in the January report. Be sure to read, too, the Consultation on Youth Ministry report elsewhere in this packet. Jesse Jaeger and Beth Dana have provided outstanding leadership and support to this effort for two years, and I have been privileged to share in that work. We appreciate, too, Rek Kwawer 's administrative support. In July, 60 participants (30 adults and 30 youth) will meet in a Summit on Youth Ministry to make recommendations for a renewed UU ministry with youth. This will be an historic event, and every participant has been carefully selected for their experience and voice.

New Hire! I and our whole staff group are very pleased to announce that Jessica York, Director of Religious Education in Birmingham, AL, has accepted a position with us as Youth Resource Director. Jessica has extensive experience with both youth and religious education leadership, and is a co-author of one of the Tapestry children's programs. Jessica will be stewarding Tapestry of Faith curricula and resources for junior and senior high youth in the same way that Tracy Hurd directs children and family programming and Sarah Gibb Millspaugh directs adult programming. Jessica will begin in June. Welcome, Jessica!

**Children and Families Programs
Tracey L. Hurd, Ph.D., Children and Families Programs Director
Barbara Gifford, Resource Development Assistant**

Tapestry of Faith Children's Programs Update

The first set of children's curricula, Living Faith Grades K-1, 2-3, and 4-5, are planned to be on-line in summer, 2007. This means field test congregations will have access to the programs in time to plan their year, and all congregations will have access to these programs as a beta-test. Field test begins September 2007.

Living Faith Programs

Tracey L.Hurd, developmental editor

We'll Build a Land: Creating Home (Kindergarten – 1 st Grade)

Writers: Jessica York and Christy Olsen

Children will explore stories, hands-on activities and tales from sacred texts as they develop a sense of home grounded in faith and relationships. 16 Sessions.

We Give Thanks: Lived and Living Faith (2 nd – 3 rd Grades)

Writers: Dr. Jenice View and Gabrielle Farrell.

Children will explore justice, Unitarian Universalism, and the axiom “you can't say that you can't play” in the lives and work of those who have shaped our faith. They will consider what that means for living in faith today. 16 Sessions.

For the Journey: Building a Toolbox of Faith (4 th – 5 th Grades)

Writers: Katie Erslev with Rev. Paul S. Sawyer, consulting.

Children will encounter tools of Unitarian Universalist faith, and compelling stories of their use. They will discern what is helpful to them as they develop their own toolbox of faith, to help them navigate life issues. 16 Sessions.

The following Inter-Session/Intergenerational programs are planned to be on-line for beta test and field test in winter 2007

Inter-Session/Intergenerational Programs

Tracey L. Hurd, developmental editor.

1. Miracles (for a wide age span of children and/or intergenerational use)

Writers: Dr. Miriam W. Smith and Rev. Chris Craethnenn.

With a lens of appreciation and reverence, participants explore miracles of transformation as they occur in everyday life and the natural world. 8 Sessions.

2. Gather the Spirit (or a wide age span of children and/or intergenerational use)

Writers: Rick Kimball and Dr. Christine Rafal

This program explores our stewardship to and for each other and the earth with an emphasis on water as both resource and metaphor.

Seeking Truth Programs: Writing to commence May 2007

Tracey L. Hurd, developmental editor

Authors were selected from an extensive pool of applicants for the four programs in the Seeking Truth curriculum. The writers will gather for an initial meeting in Boston followed by individual and team writing with draft manuscripts due October 2007. These programs are scheduled to be ready for field test during the 2008-2009 congregational year.

The Welcome Table: Friendship and Fairness (Kindergarten – 1 st Grade)

Writers: Gaia Brown and Aisha Khadr Hauser

Children will understand their natural impulses toward friendship and fairness, truth and justice, in the stories they create, the stories they love, and in their lives, with UU faith as a context. 16 Sessions.

Moral Tales: Justice and Goodness (2 nd – 3 rd Grades)

Writers: Rev. Alice Anacheke-Nasemann and Elisa Davey Pearmain

Using tales of prophets and diverse literature of moral tales, children will explore goodness and justice in the context of Unitarian Universalist faith. 16 Sessions.

Through the Open Window: Self and Others (4 th – 5 th Grades)

Writers: Dr. Jenice View, Natalie Fenimore, and Gabrielle Farrell

Children will look at their circles of belonging and identities, privilege and oppression in light of Unitarian Universalist faith. They will explore respect, relational skills and hospitality as religious goods that emphasize power together rather than power over others. 16 Sessions.

Amazing Grace: Virtue and Sin (6 th Grade)

Writer: Rick Kimball

This program takes on the big questions of virtue, sin, goodness and evil in the context of Unitarian Universalist faith. Youth will explore how many world religions view virtue and sin and ponder their own understandings. 16 Sessions.

Tree of Life (Intersession/Wide age span for children and/or Intergenerational)

Writer: Katie Erslev

This program explores eco-justice and our call to care for this earth and each other through an emphasis on the natural resource of trees. Trees as sacred objects will be explored across our sources; trees as metaphor for our individual and collective faith will be explored as well. 8 Sessions.

Toolkit Series Book

Stories in Faith: Exploring Our UU Principles and Sources Through Wisdom Tales

Writer: Gail Forsyth-Vail

Developmental Editor, Tracey L. Hurd

A resource for families, teachers, religious educators, and worship leaders, this book presents over twenty soul-stirring stories, with background notes and suggestions about how they can help Unitarian Universalists of all ages grow in faith. The edited draft is completed and the book is in production for fall 2007.

Family Resources & Programs

3. Family Resources and Tapestry of Faith

Informed by the congregational call for family resources, Tapestry of Faith children's programs are now designed with a "Taking it Home" section for each session of every children's program. A "Taking it Home" section offers suggestions for: Family spiritual practices; family fun (and games); and Family exploration of faith (and matters pertaining to it). Since most children's programs are 16 sessions in length, we are able to substantially increase both family outreach through the programs and family resources on www.uua.org through the "Taking it Home" sections.

2. Families on www.uua.org

The UUA Families Resource pages were reorganized and revised for transfer to the new UUA website. As material is generated from Tapestry of Faith, it will be added to the Family resources.

3. Family Matters Task Force (FMTF)

The Family Matters Task Force (FMTF) was unable to conduct its annual retreat this year due to scheduling conflicts. The group plans to meet in the fall and hold telephone conference calls between now and then. The FMTF is sponsoring and leading two workshops at General Assembly: “Time as a Family Value” and “Stirring the Oatmeal: Serving all Families.”

Adult Programs

Rev. Sarah Gibb Millspaugh, Adult Programs Director

Rachael Brown, Curriculum Assistant

Tapestry of Faith Adult Programs Update

The Tapestry of Faith adult curriculum series are getting closer to publication and use in our congregations. Principled Commitment: a Program for Unitarian Universalist Couples and Our Whole Lives for Young Adults and Sexuality and Our Faith for Young Adults have been field tested and are being revised for publication in response to our learnings from the field test. These programs are expected to be available by late fall/early winter.

Additionally, writing is concluding on two spirituality programs for adults, tentatively titled Spirit of Life and Spirit in Practice, which will be edited this spring for beta-testing and field testing in the 2007-2008 church year.

Tapestry of Faith's “calls for authors”—announced periodically online and in the UUA's Congregational Mailing—have generated widespread interest from talented Unitarian Universalists across the country. It has been a challenge for our staff group to choose just a few authors from the many outstanding applications we have received in each round. We are pleased to have hired Rev. Dr. Bill Murry and Rev. Ginger Luke to co-author Tapestry of Faith's program on morality and ethics, and Margaret L. Beard to create a series of ground-breaking leadership workshops that weave together spiritual growth and congregational leadership. Development of these programs begins in 2007, with beta-testing and field testing expected in the 2008-2009 church year.

As Our Whole Lives: Sexuality Education for Young Adults nears publication, we will train fourteen trainers in both OWL for Young Adults and OWL for Adults this summer. Each level of Our Whole Lives, from kindergarten to adulthood, has several authorized trainers associated with it who help our congregations' OWL teachers teach effectively and responsibly. (Find a list of trainers at <http://www.uua.org/owl/MasterTrainerList.pdf>.) The trainers for the new level will be available to lead teacher-training workshops

throughout the United States beginning this fall. It is our hope that by combining the age levels of Adult and Young Adult into one training workshop we will not only facilitate the use of a new program, we will also increase the availability of training for Our Whole Lives for Adults, which has been the least-utilized level of the program in our congregations.

Youth Office

Jesse Jaeger, Youth Programs Director

Beth Dana, Youth Ministry Associate

Laura Manning, Youth Ministry Associate

Rek Kwawer, Youth Office Administrative Assistant

Consultation on Youth Ministry

The Consultation on Youth Ministry has almost completed its second year and remains a major focus of our work. You will find a complete report of the accomplishments of this important project in a separate section of this board packet.

Chrysalis Program

The Leadership Development Conference (LDC) Training-of-Trainers will be held at U Bar U Retreat outside of San Antonio, TX on Memorial Day weekend, May 24-28. The training will occur at the same time and location as the Groundwork: Youth and Young Adult Anti-Racism Training and Organizing Program's Training-of-Trainers. For the LDC, 16 participants have been selected, and the trainers (youth Alice Manos and adult Craig Block) and Youth Office staff are re-working the training manual. The team is adding a stronger conflict resolution section, more meeting process tools, and a clearer understanding of youth empowerment, including respect for the community.

Several Chrysalis trainings will be happening this spring, including a Leadership Development Conference (in Ohio-Meadville District), two Spirituality Development Conferences (in Massachusetts Bay District and Southwest District), and four Groundwork Anti-Racism Conferences (in Heartland District, British Columbia Region, Clara Barton District, and Mountain Desert District).

Young Religious Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Structure and the Youth Social Justice Training

There is lots of exciting news in the world of YRUU social justice. The Youth Social Justice Training took place in New Orleans, LA from February 22-26. An excellent staff ran a very smooth conference, which included intensive anti-racism training, a history of New Orleans, a sexuality education workshop, media training, and a community action project in the Ninth Ward. During the training participants also viewed and processed *When The Levees Broke*, saw presentations from several Gulf Coast Relief Fund partner organizations, and did in-depth identity development work through caucusing.

One of the highlights of the training was a connection built between YRUU and the ReThink New Orleans students. We were lucky to see a presentation by youth involved in ReThink (a youth-run education assessment and reform community based

organization). Many youth who attended the conference will be doing work in their own local communities to support and fundraise for ReThink. Another highlight was that all participants created a personal action plan for working towards justice in their local congregations and districts/ regions. All the youth are very excited to follow through on commitments made during the conference, and the YRUU Working Action Manager George Brown will be working with people to keep their commitments.

Many training participants were on the younger side of YRUU's 14-20 range, and there is a feeling of renewed energy for social justice work within UU youth communities, particularly around our Working Action Issue of Education Reform and Multiculturalism. You can hope and expect to hear more about organizing around Education Reform in preparation for GA.

There will now be a youth representative on the Peacemaking Taskforce of the Commission on Social Witness for the first time in that committee's history. Chris Michell, the Continental Social Action Coordinator is working on a manual for District/ Regional Social Action Coordinators, and another edition of the YRUU Social Justice Times Newsletter.

YRUU Leadership

The YRUU Steering Committee is meeting from March 15-18 at the Walker Center outside Boston . Much of the time at this meeting will be spent planning Youth Council 2007. The People of Color Advisory Council is meeting for one day prior for intentional time for identity development and caucus organizing. Members of the Steering Committee are currently involved in the hiring processes for the Assistant Youth Ministry Director and Youth Ministry Associates.

The January Steering Committee meeting went well, and had a strong focus on community building to be an effective leadership team, discussing and offering feedback into the Consultation process, racial caucusing around identity development, and anti-racist organizing. YRUU representation on the Consultation Taskforce was discussed, and it was decided that Sean Capaloff-Jones will be replacing Ian Moore as a YRUU representative on the taskforce.

YRUU Youth Council planning this year has been challenging as it is difficult to predict what will emerge from the Summit on Youth Ministry in July, just before Youth Council meets. The YRUU Steering Committee is working with the YRUU representatives on the Consultation Taskforce on how to make the most effective connections between what happens at the Summit on Youth Ministry and the business of Youth Council. This will include how YRUU will work to implement recommendations which affect it. Once again, Youth Council will be doing intensive anti-racism and anti-oppression training, which will be provided by members of the Groundwork Youth and Young Adult Anti-Racism Training Collective.

Queer Youth Organizing

This year's Interweave Convocation had a theme of Interweaving Generations, and a larger youth and young adult presence than in recent years. Both the Youth and Young Adult Offices were involved in planning the conference, and there were a number of workshops pertaining to queer youth issues. There was money left over in the conference budget, which will be used for supporting queer youth organizing at other YRUU events (like GA and Youth Council) and for resource development. Laura Manning will be creating resources about intersections of gender and sexuality, preferred gender pronouns, and transgender youth in general.

DRUUMM and White Anti-Racist Youth and Young Adult (YaYA) Summits

DRUUMM Youth and Young Adults will be hosting two Spring Summits this year. The West Coast Summit will be held in San Diego from March 30-April 1, with Kevin Mann as the dean. The East Coast Summit will be held in Washington, DC, from May 10-13, with Zarinah Ali as the dean.

There will be a white anti-racist youth and young adult Summit from May 10-13 in Silver Spring, MD (at the same time as the DRUUMM YaYA East Coast Summit). The organizers of this event are also compiling resources about doing anti-racist and identity development work which will be distributed to people who are unable to attend the Summits but who want to organize similar work in their home communities.

General Assembly Youth Caucus

The planning process for youth participation at General Assembly continues. The Youth Caucus staff will be meeting from April 12-15, in Portland . During this time, they will be meeting with the General Assembly Planning Committee to evaluate youth programming at General Assembly as part of the process of the Consultation on Ministry to and with Youth. Members of the Youth Office and Youth Caucus staff will also be taking part in meetings organized by Gini Courter around cultural misappropriation and right relations.

Worship Web

Barbara Gifford

Judith A. Frediani

We invite you to view the vibrant new appearance and improvements to Worship Web on the newly-launched UUA website. Seekers can search Worship Web content more effectively, finding worship elements on specific themes – such as meditations on community – and for special occasions. This project represents many hours of staff work – training, migrating, and editing.

Worship Web coordinators Mara Dowdall and Julia Hamilton, our part-time consultants who are studying for the ministry, are developing new features for the Worship Web and expanding existing resources. Mara and Julia are working on:

1. A rich resource list of published Unitarian Universalist worship resources with descriptions, table of contents, and where they are available;

2. Deepening our collection of meditations from UU Meditation Manuals;
3. Outreach to worship leaders for contributions of materials to Worship Web.

A collection of worship resources for spring occasions has been posted on the Worship Web.

UUA Pamphlets

Judith A. Frediani, Barbara Gifford, Rose Hanig, UUA Bookstore Manager

1. The manuscripts for UU Views of the Sacred and UU Views of Evil have been submitted to the Office of Publications and are in production. These pamphlets include the voices of seven distinguished UU ministers: Paul Rasor as the editor, and authors James Ishmael Ford, Abhi Janamanchi, Liz Lerner, Judith Meyer, Patrick O'Neill, and Victoria Safford.
2. The manuscript for Table Graces and Prayers for the Unitarian Universalist Home, Irene Praeger, collection editor, has also been edited and submitted to the Publications Office for publication.

Travel Report

Lifespan Faith Development Staff Group

Judith A. Frediani, Director, Lifespan Faith Development

May 10-11 Tapestry Authors Meeting Boston

May 17 LFD retreat Boston area

May 21-22 Growth Team Meeting TBD

June 19 – 25 General Assembly Portland, OR

July 16 – 20 Summit on Youth Ministry Boston, MA

Jesse Jaeger: Youth Programs Director

April 9-11 UUMA Exec Committee Meeting Williamsburg, VA

April 11-15 GA Youth Caucus Pre-Site Meeting Portland, OR

April 27 – 29 Joseph Priestly District Annual Meeting Harrisburg, PA

May 11 DRUUMM YaYA Summit Washington DC

May 18 – 20 Canadian Unitarian Council ACM Vancouver, BC

May 24 – 28 Chrysalis Training of Trainers San Antonio, TX

June 17 – 26 General Assembly Portland, OR

July 16 – 20 Summit on Youth Ministry Boston, MA

July 22 – 28 Youth Council Newton, MA

Laura Manning: Youth Ministry Associate

May 10-13 White Anti-Racist YaYA Summit Washington DC

May 24-28 Groundwork Training of Trainers San Antonio, TX

June 18-20 Groundwork Trainers Pre-GA meeting Portland, OR

June 20-25 General Assembly Portland, OR

July 22 – 28 Youth Council Newton, MA

Beth Dana, Youth Ministry Associate

April 9-11 UUMA Exec Committee Meeting Williamsburg, VA

April 12-15 GA Youth Caucus Pre-Site Meeting Portland, OR

May 10-13 Youth & Young Adult White Anti-Racist Silver Spring, MD Leadership Development Summit

June 17-19 Groundwork Collective Meeting Portland, OR

June 20-25 General Assembly Portland, OR

July 16-20 Summit on Youth Ministry Boston, MA

July 22-28 Youth Council Newton, MA

Sarah Gibb Millspaugh, Adult Programs Director

June 19-20 Ministry Days Portland, OR

June 20-24 General Assembly Portland, OR

July 11-15 OWL YA/A Training of Trainers Boston, MA

Tracey L. Hurd, Children and Families Program Director

May 10-11 Tapestry Authors Meeting Boston

May 17 LFD retreat Boston area

June 19 – 25 General Assembly Portland, OR