

Lifespan Faith Development
Report to the UUA Board of Trustees
October, 2007 Meeting

Judith A. Frediani

Director of Lifespan Faith Development
Tapestry Project Director

Adrienne Ross

Office and Project Manager

Staff Transitions

This summer we said goodbye to our two Youth Ministry Associates, Beth Dana and Laura Manning. Beth has moved to New York to finish her degree at NYU. Laura has moved back to New Orleans to do organizing work. We wish them the best in their future endeavors.

In the end of July 2007 we said goodbye to Rachael Brown, who served as Curriculum Assistant for many years, most recently working with adult programs. At the end of August, we said good-bye to Barbara Gifford, Curriculum Development Assistant, who retired to be with family and pursue her watercolor art. We miss them both. This fall we are creating new staff positions to support the development of all of Tapestry of Faith's resources.

In May, we welcomed Darrick Jackson to our staff as Assistant Youth Ministries Director. Darrick is one of our newest ministers, and was studying and working at Andover Newton Theological School before joining the staff at the UUA.

In June, we welcomed Jessica York, Youth Programs Director for Tapestry of Faith (as reported in the April 2007 Board report). In June we also welcomed another key member of the Tapestry team: Susan Lawrence joined us as Managing Editor. She brings the perfect combination of skills and experiences to this position as a professional editor, educator, UU, and parent.

During the summer, we welcomed India McKnight and Sara Eskrich as our new Youth Ministry Associates. India is from Washington, DC and is working on the Chrysalis Trainings, GA Youth Caucus, and DRUUMM YaYA support. Sara is from Madison, WI and is working on the Consultation Implementation and YRUU Leadership.

This fall, Jesse Jaeger will begin a combination paternity leave and sabbatical on September 14, 2007. He will return to the office on January 2, 2008. He will be spending his time with family and improving his house.

Children and Families Programs

Susan Lawrence, Managing Editor

Judith A. Frediani

We are very excited that our **Tapestry children's programs** will begin to field-test this winter with the premiere of our Living Faith Series of curricula: *Creating Home* for Grades K-1, *We Give Thanks* for Grades 2-3 and *Toolbox of Faith* for grades 4-5. These 16-session programs are in the final edit stage and are being prepared for online publication in the Content Management System They are all on target to be published online January 2nd 2008 for their official field test and will be available on the web for everyone who would like to read, use, and comment on them. We are calling now for **January field testers** of these programs. Please email aross@uua.org if interested.

Our second series of Tapestry curricula for children, Seeking Truth, is in the writing stage. Gaia Brown and Aisha Khadr-Houser are writing the K-1 Program *The Welcome Table*, Elisa Pearmain, and Alice Anacheka-Naseman are writing the Grade 2-3 program *Moral Tales*, Natalie Fenimore, Gabrielle Farrell, and Jenice View are writing the Grade 4-5 program called *Through the Open Window*. Richard Kimball is writing the Grade 6 program on virtues and sins.

Our intergenerational series is also moving along quite well. *Miracles* has been written, as well as *Gather the Spirit* (focus on water). Both are being developmentally edited for field test. Our third intergenerational program, *Tree of Life* is also underway.

Technology

September 1st brought the debut of our proprietary technology to publish word documents online in HTML and enable a browser to download the entire document, or just individual sessions in a readable format for most word processors. This was a culmination of 16 months of new software development, and a joint effort with our content management service Crown Peak Technologies. This technology enables our users to download, manipulate and print our curriculum in their own word processing program at their convenience.

Youth Programs

Jessica York

Youth Programs Director (Grades 6-12)

I am pleased and excited to join the staff of the Lifespan Faith Development group.

Tapestry Programs for Youth

Currently, I am editing three programs that have been previously field-tested:

- **Families**, developed by Dr. Tracey Hurd, from a program originally written by Helen Bishop and Susan Grider, is a junior and senior high twelve-session journey focusing on the importance of family and an appreciation of family diversity. It is scheduled to be our first youth program posted online. Look for it in early 2008.

- **Exploring Our Identities Through Poetry**, by Karen Harris, will also post in 2008. Participants in this senior high program will read, hear, analyze, and write poetry that speaks to the spirit and to their values.
- The **Coming of Age** program is a substantial resource that provides developmental information and workshop activities in many areas, including Unitarian Universalist Beliefs, Theology, Spirituality, Community Service, and Leadership. It will be released in book form and should be published in 2008.

Amazing Grace: Virtue & Sin is part of the Tapestry of Faith K-6 Seeking Truth series. Richard Kimball is writing this program for sixth graders. Richard's writing and my developmental edit will be complete at the end of January 2008.

Several new Tapestry of Faith youth programs will be informed by the findings of the Consultation on Ministry To and With Youth. To that end, I participated in the Youth Summit in July 2007 and the Curriculum Office of LFD started conversations in September to identify two new youth programs to develop in 2008

Other Activities

The youth **Peer Chaplain Resource Manual** is in the process of an edit that will be completed by the end of September. This resource is slated to be published in book form.

In October, the LFD Tapestry of Faith staff will present the programming for the **Liberal Religious Educators Association Fall Conference** in San Antonio, Texas. Over 160 religious educators from across the U.S. and Canada are expected to attend. The focus will be on not only the Tapestry of Faith program, but also the deepening of faith within participants and within our congregations through their own programs.

Adult Programs

Rev. Sarah Gibb Millspaugh

Adult Programs Director

Tapestry of Faith Adult Programs

September 4th, 2007 saw the online publication of **Spirit of Life**, a new curriculum for Unitarian Universalist adults on spirituality by Rev. Barbara Hamilton-Holway. The curriculum is available online, at no cost, to congregations that want to use it. View *Spirit of Life* at

<http://www.uua.org/religiouseducation/curricula/tapestryfaith/spiritlife/index.shtml>.

Fifty Unitarian Universalist congregations are field testing *Spirit of Life* this year—congregations that range in size from 15 to 1000 members. The number of congregations (well over 100) volunteering to field test this program is an indication of the interest in this topic and the vitality of adult religious education programs in our congregations. After each workshop, leaders will provide detailed feedback which will inform a revision

of *Spirit of Life* in 2008. Field-testing congregations help improve our curricula, making them more user-friendly and relevant to the full range of Unitarian Universalists.

This fall I will prepare another adult program for a January 2008 field test: **Spirit in Practice**, by Rev. Erik Walker Wikstrom. *Spirit in Practice* offers a deeper look into “eight spheres” of spiritual expression and ritual: personal spiritual practices, communal worship experiences, spiritual partnerships, mind practices, body practices, soul practices, life practices, and justice practices. Like *Spirit of Life*, it will be published online and available for use by any congregation during its field test.

Writing is underway this fall for adult programs on **Unitarian Universalist morality** (Revs. William Murry and Ginger Luke) and **Unitarian Universalist theology** (Rev. Thandeka). Further, this fall **Principled Commitment**, the couples program field tested in late 2006, will enter the revision phase for online publication in 2008.

Building the World We Dream About

Authored by Mark Hicks under the editorial direction of Taquiena Boston, Director of Identity-based Ministries, this anti-racist, multi-cultural adult program entered its field test in September. An interdepartmental advisory staff team (including Sarah and Judith Frediani) has been involved in its development. For a full report, see the IdBM staff group board report.

Our Whole Lives for Young Adults

Our Whole Lives: Sexuality Education for Young Adults (Ages 18-35) is scheduled for print publication in January of 2008. Though developed only by the Unitarian Universalist Association, its religious companion **Sexuality and Our Faith** includes supplements for United Church of Christ as well as Unitarian Universalist congregations. In July 2007 we held a remarkably successful Training of Trainers to prepare twenty trainers of facilitators for this new level of *Our Whole Lives*. They will lead training workshops on the district and cluster level for those that wish to teach the program. The training model incorporates the existing *Our Whole Lives: Sexuality Education for Adults*—therefore participants in the training will be able to teach either the Adult or Young Adult level of *Our Whole Lives*. UUA.org will soon be updated to include information about this new level of *Our Whole Lives*.

Office of Youth Ministries

Jesse Jaeger, Youth Ministries Director
Darrick Jackson, Assistant Youth Ministries Director
Sara Eskrich, Youth Ministry Associate
India McKnight, Youth Ministry Associate
Rek Kwawer, Office of Youth Ministries Assistant

Consultation on Youth Ministry

The Consultation on Youth Ministry remains a major focus of our work. You will find a complete report about this important project and the **Summit** held in July, in another section of this board packet.

Youth Council

Youth Council 2007 took place in July at the Walker Center in Newton, MA. The event focused on intensive anti-racism training and the outcomes of the Summit on Youth Ministry. Youth Council delegates drafted a response to the outcomes of the Summit, included in another section of this board packet.

In hopes of new accountability and structures to help relieve tokenization in our youth communities, the People of Color Caucus (POCC) of Youth Council and the People of Color Advisory Council (POCAC) on the YRUU Steering Committee made a decision regarding their relationship to YRUU. Previously, these positions were chosen without a system of accountability to youth of color. They have now chosen to connect these positions with the DRUUMM Youth and Young Adult Steering Committee to provide more accountability to youth of color. Below is an excerpt from a letter that they wrote to Youth and Young Adults of Color in the Unitarian Universalist community and those who wish to support Youth of Color in their endeavor for a full and satisfying spiritual experience:

This year's POCC has decided that we would change this flaw in the system and hopefully make the positions formerly known as POCC and POCAC accountable to Diverse & Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries Youth and Young Adult Steering Committee (DRUUMM YaYA SC) instead of no one.

The People of Color Caucus intentionally decided to have no one run for POCAC, thus disbanding it. Our purpose was to end this tokenizing committee and instead focus on one that can be fully accountable. Our action was bold, but necessary, and we believe that it will be successful.

YRUU Steering Committee

YRUU Steering Committee will be working closely with, and meeting at the same time as, DRUUMM YaYA Steering Committee this year to forge ahead in the journey towards right relationship. The members of the YRUU Steering Committee 2007-2008 include: Will Floyd (Post High Transitional Age Range Representative- MNYD), Noah Hurowitz (Position on Appraisal- MBD), Elisabeth Moore (2006-2007 SC Member- CBD), Kasey Neiss (MNYD), Rose Roberts (Western Canada), Ellen Zemlin (Heartland), Kimberlee Tomczak (Adult At-Large), Lyn Conley (outgoing UUA Board Representative), and Paul Rickter (incoming UUA Board Representative).

At the October 25th-28th meeting, Steering Committee will work on leadership and identity development, relationship with the DRUUMM-YaYA Steering Committee, the Summit Implementation Working Group, and traditional governance agenda items.

DRUUMM YaYA (Diverse & Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries Youth and Young Adults)

DRUUMM YaYA's Steering Committee will meet October 26th – 29th, in Boston, MA, in conjunction with the YRUU Steering Committee. The DRUUMM YaYA SC has gained two new young adults and three new youth. This was due to an increase in the number of positions on the committee from three youth and young adults to four. DRUUMM YaYA will work with the YRUU SC to discuss and develop a plan for building accountable relationships.

Chrysalis Program

The Office of Youth Ministries is beginning the planning process for a re-evaluation of the Chrysalis leadership training program. A task force consisting of experienced trainers, district and UUA staff will create a vision for a regional and more congregationally-accessible training program. We will also hold a small Chaplain Training of Trainers and Chaplain Training Mentorship program to meet the need for additional youth chaplain trainers.

Over the summer, there were three trainings in the Southwest and Pacific Northwest Districts. There are five trainings scheduled this fall in the Ohio-Meadville, Western Canada, Prairie Star, Heartland, and Pacific Southwest Districts. These eight training include several Basic and Advanced Advisor Trainings, several Chaplain Trainings, a Spiritual Development Conference and a Leadership Development Conference.

General Assembly

Work has already begun for General Assembly 2008 in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. The two HUUPERS for GA Youth Caucus are Jennifer Lotze of the Ohio-Meadville district and Amelia Harati from the Pacific Southwest District. The Senior HUUPER Jennifer Lotze and India McKnight will attend the GA planning committee meeting in order to organize the youth caucus schedule and begin to plan programming. They are also editing the GA Youth Caucus Staff application form in order to accommodate the changes made by last year's Youth Caucus. The application will be posted on the YRUU website on September 18th and is due to the Youth Office on November 18th. Pre-site has been scheduled for the first week in April, in conjunction with the GAPC meeting.

Social Justice

Following the recommendations of the Summit on Youth Ministry, the Office of Youth Ministries, in conversation with the UUSC, the Washington Office of Advocacy and Witness, and the YRUU Social Justice Leadership, plans to hold a meeting of key social justice leaders in our faith, both youth and adults, to imagine how we could improve our social justice programming with youth, and better integrate youth into existing social justice programming. This discussion will happen sometime in the spring.

**Lifespan Faith Development
Travel Schedules
September – December 2007**

Judith A. Frediani

October 11-15	LREDA Fall Conference	San Antonio, TX
Nov. 26 – Dec. 21	Sabbatical	

Sarah Gibb Millspaugh

September 9-14	Meetings with LFD Staff Group	Boston, MA
October 12-15	LREDA Fall Conference	San Antonio, TX
November 11-16	Meetings with LFD Staff Group	Boston, MA

Jessica York

October 11-16	LREDA Fall Conference & LARGE	San Antonio, TX
November 11 – 16	LFD Staff Group Meetings	Boston, MA

Jesse Jaeger: Youth Ministries Director

September 14, 2007 – January 1, 2008	Sabbatical
--------------------------------------	------------

Darrick Jackson: Assistant Youth Ministries Director

October 12-15	LREDA Fall Conference	San Antonio, TX
October 25-28	YRUU Steering Committee Meeting	Boston, MA
November 9-11	DRUUMM Fall Conference	Denver, CO
November 26-29	Ecumenical Stewardship Center Leadership Conference	St. Pete's Beach, FL

Sara Eskrich: Youth Ministry Associate

October 25-28:	Steering Committee Meeting	Boston, MA
November 10:	Mass Bay District Gathering on Ministry To and With Youth	Malden, MA

India McKnight: Youth Ministry Associate

October 25 - 29	DRUUMM YaYA & YRUU SC meetings	Boston, MA
November 9-11	DRUUMM Fall Conference	Denver, CO