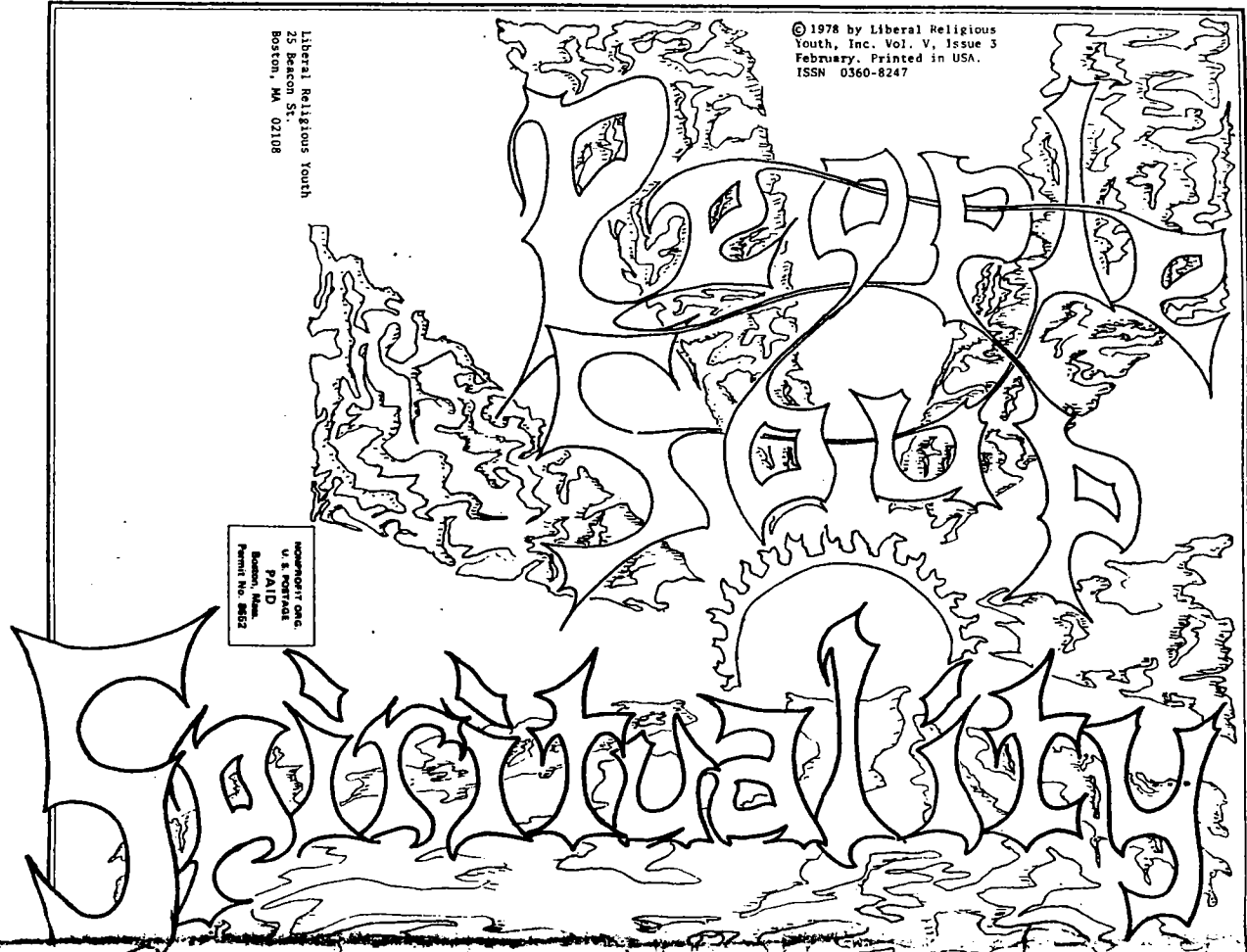


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## LRV-UUA PARALLELS

by Abbe Bjorklund

Unitarian Universalism and Liberal Religious Youth have many parallels in their purposes and belief in the principles of religious freedom and liberalism. Both LRV and the UUA are ethical movements without doctrines, believing in individual freedom as the method and reason as the guide towards achieving religious truth.

The principal of religious freedom is that in order to advance humans must be free. There is no area of life more important to be free than religion. The free alone are at home in the world of nature, of ideas, of people and of the soul. Only in freedom can one fully live.

According to the LRV by-laws, some of the purposes of LRV are "to help individual young people to deal creatively and imaginatively with religion as the most exalted quality and spirit of living," and to "nurture the distinctively liberal tradition in religion: freedom and responsibility of belief and the free and questing mind." The UUA by-laws state that "the association is dedicated to the principles of a free faith" and that "no by-laws shall infringe upon individual freedom of belief."

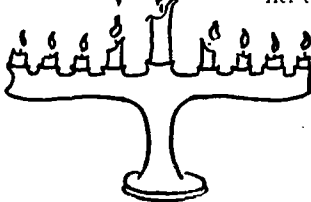
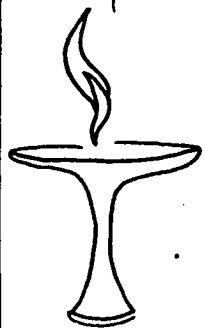
The principle of individual empowerment, the need for each individual to find their own personal truths, is important to both the UU movement and LRV. We share a belief in the value of every human personality. This value is the purpose and instrument of the struggle for a better society. The broad and encompassing religion of UUism strives to be spiritual yet practical, personal yet universal. LRV wants to help individuals "achieve a responsible and durable faith through personal and group experiences of learning, service, and worship" and "to understand and practice the privileges and responsibilities of a governing system that

embodies these ideals." The UUA wants to "affirm, defend, and promote the supreme worth and dignity of every human personality and the use of the democratic method in human relationships."

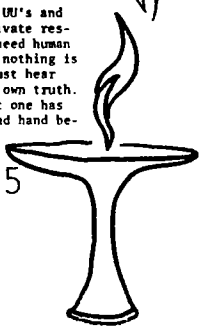
Because religion is human-centered and human-created, UU's and LRVers don't promote any one religious doctrine or faith, but believe that there are no final and conclusive answers. "Religion is a personal matter and must rest on the right of each person to search out the truth." (George Marshall)

As religious liberals, UU's and LRVers search, explore, and nurture the free and questioning mind in order to create an environment conducive to the development of individual truths. We believe that as one's experience and ideas change, so may one's faith. The UUA by-laws state that UUs "support the free and disciplined search for truth as the foundation of religious fellowship" and "cherish and spread universal truths taught by great prophets and teachers, summarized as love to God and humankind". LRVers also utilize the religious teachings of many faiths and assimilate them into a more universal, yet personal faith. Revelation is continuous- nothing is complete, nothing is exempt from criticism and consideration. As James Luther Adams states in *On Being Human Religiously*, "We cannot properly place our confidence in our own creations- we must depend on a transforming reality that breaks through encrusted forms of life and thought to create new forms." All creeds of other religions were written by mortals; to advance we must continue searching and not accept old creeds as infallible.

In order to assimilate ideas UU's and LRVers use human reason. To cultivate responsible behavior and beliefs we need human reason and scientific method, but nothing is really an infallible guide. We must hear many ideas before we can find our own truth. It will be a truth or insight that one has arrived at personally, not a second hand belief that is accepted outwardly.



cont. on pg. 5



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Your Contributions for this
paper are welcome. It is made
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contributions. Each spiritual,
poem, or other item, short
stories, poems, illustrations, or
drawings are welcome and will be
considered. Items can be returned,
readings or other artwork must be
black and white. We cannot pay for
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To the lady at Capslock, Colo.
summer of '76, who wrote me a
letter to Continental of '76 at
Evergreen- or to anyone who can
get this message to this lady
whom we shared massages at the
workshop- the only night I was
there: Please forgive me, I had
misplaced the letter and I really
wanted to say hello and exchange
thoughts. All my love to you.
I am Jeffrey Stuart Weiss III
living at 284 Lodgepole Bar
Harbor, Maine, until at least
Jan. 31, '78. You can write or
visit here or write to 141 E.
88 St., New York City 10028
Help- I've been out of CVF LRY for a
while- and M. Hartford, Ct. is bor-
ing, depressing, and dull! For all
you oh-so-kind folk out there who
know me from Rowe or LRY (or even if
you don't) please write a- Di Kegeles;
114 N. Main St.; W. Hartford, Ct.
06107

ALLRIGHT...By your initial response
I can be assured that you are out
there, and am willing to be artistic
and creative and such for the NSF
newspaper. And if you want one write
again to: TODD GATEWOOD, 4932 Stevens
St, Np1s, MN 55409

ANNE HANSKE: How's Evergreen! I
miss you, and will write soon. I
hope you are enjoying life out
there. Love, Sarah
Kevin Bell(y button)-jus' wonderin' if
by some chance you do remember me from
con-con. We talked for a while after my
and Teddy A.'s sensorium. Everyone
left(except you and a few others who
fell asleep)so I was cleaning up and
you woke up and so we started talking.
Well...please let me know if you do re-
member me, and even if you don't-love
reaches you from CA-Paw(ele Irving
Munchkin Schwartz)Marchese, 557 S. Wri-
ghtwood St., Orange, CA 92669/714-997-
8487

Doug in KC-Do you mind us stepping
in on sat. morning after we just had
a free breakfast at the conscious
cookers? We love it when you turn us
on!

F--- Forest Fires! While at Rainbow
Gathering in Gila Forest, New Mexico
my house/job burnt to the ground in
the Angeles National Forest. Send
drugs to Genesee, 11317 Santa
Monica Blvd., West L.A., CA. 90025

To all who made '77 the best year
of my 19- Brian, Ami, Chris, Matt,
Cheryl, Tym, Mickey, Gail, Tom,
Dizzy, Becky, Tonya, Kathy,
Marty, bubbles(soap), LARC, OPIK,
and Suzanne thanks for LRY.
love ya.

Anybody- I need Help- they say I've
been on Earth 14 winters, but I
still am totally unknowledgale
as to who I am, you are, and what
anything else is. I need Help in
anyway you could give it.
-Anonymous(I don't know my real
name)31804 SiPonderosa Way, Evergreen
Colorado, 80439

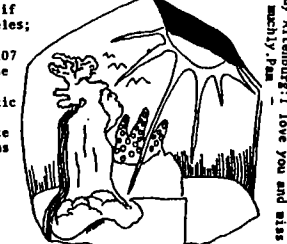
To Debbie Berges.
Hi! What are you doing nowadays?
Lori Pollack (the girl with the
same prescription glasses as you
at the beach party in 1974).

Joe in KC-I told you I payed back that
\$10, don't go pushing me around!
Ronnie F-I'm a amateur masterdebator.
Will you tell me how to do it so I can
be a professional just like you?
Jack in KC-Can't you stay dead once?
God is running out of deaths to give u

Storain Norman: Held from the
East Coast to the West Coast.
WAKE UP! Send me some of that
warm sun! Let's get loaded Norma!
Love, Sara.

To all cat lovers around, I have a
friendly piece of advice. Give cats
their shots early My 4 month old
kitten died of distemper while I was
at board. It was a big loss, so I'm
sending this piece of advice: Dirty
Lizzy

Welcome to the Southern point
MDA house and I expect visitors.
Danny McFarlane
(813)262-1923, pager 1750



Dear Everyone: This is Jerome Stone
II, writing from Prescott, AZ(of all
places?)I'm presently a stupid...er,
student at Prescott Center College.
It is an "alternative" college and
is BEEDOTIFUL. I'm gonna be here for
a while. If you write to me, I'll
try to write back as quick as pos-
sible. Jerome Stone II, c/o Prescott
College, 220 Grove Ave, Prescott, A.
86301

Dan Godman-It was I who advised the
Tacos to run your article next to
mine. Hope you don't object, but you
have got the right idea, Bro!-JSII

Cram Nollivort, The crux of the
biscuit is the... is the... the
what? -SB

To all who made '77 the best year
of my 19- Brian, Ami, Chris, Matt,
Lauri, Liz, kin, Cheryl, Tym,
Mickey, Gail, Tom, Dizzy, Becky,
Tonya, Kathy, Marty...bubbles(soap)
...LARC, OPIK, and Suzanne thank-
for LRY. Love 'ya.

Sandy B- I miss your flashing blue
eyes- keep people busy- pass rumors-
passionately yours- your Harrison in-
ter tub peddler partner.
To Sumco Fed-I love you all: Intim
next time Brain Petatilla-di-di-di-
da-Peace, Lynn

Lyn--I thought of the word.
"constructive". --Love, Tom

Does anyone know of a place I could
buy copies of the following books?:
Axioms of Kwame Nkrumah, and Hand-
book of Revolutionary Warfare, both
by Kwame Nkrumah. Also, Prison
Diary and Ho Chi Minh on Revolution
both by Ho Chi Minh (NYC area,
please) Also, Anybody that might
have been to Star Island this summer
If you or someone you know inadver-
tently brought home a copy of Pra-
irie Fire or Workingman's Dead,
please contact: Erik in the attic,
277 Hillside Ave, Nutley, NJ 07110

To Everbody out there: This is us
in here, locked up at Simon's Rock
High Security, Detention College.
All that we can do to pass the time
is to speak person-to-person with
Uncle Sidney, and remember Cont.
Conf. '77 held 10 miles away.
Here's to life and please write:
Jonathan Moulton or Thom O'dell
c/o Simon's Rock College
Ct. Barrington, MA 01230

MARTHA KENBLE, TOM SIMON: hey you
loomis prep-freaks! I miss you!
Let's get together soon. Love and
zucchinis, Sarah
All I can say is "Jailed...and
trying to escape." Trinca write!
Ricky Rick, I think I lost you
somewhere out there, Glame an
address and meet ya at Blarney's.
Love, Lisette

a lady had a camera in M. Stockbridge
as did myself. alas, but I had no
flash.this lady took many pictures,
and I was unable to take any. dear
lady, please send me copies of your
pictures from the Mr. Ugly contest(I
will pay)laurie box 184rfd2,Killing-
worth,CT 06417

I really loved my experience
at Continental. I was so glad
people were interested and con-
cerned with recent happenings
at Kent State. I've been much
happier with my experiences in
LRY lately. If you would like
to contact me, here I am:
4200 Remington Ave.
Pennsauken, N.J. 08110
(609) 663-5986
Amy (a-me) and Jay- PLEASE call
or write as soon as possible.
love, Bob Rowell

JOSHUA: We'd best go season
watching before the season ends...
oops, I think it's already too
late. Do you like snowflakes?
Love, Sarah

Pizza still lives and remembers
those who attended the 1975 De-
Bonneville Christmas Conference,
the church of Shakesy accepts all
regardless of race or creed, be ye
cheese, anchovies or pepperoni.
No connection with any sane, serious,
cultish or meaningful religion.
You just have to like pizza.
And pizza will love you, blessing
you with its tomato and pastry
shell. Write to Lori Pollack,
13442 Banvers Wy, Westminster, CA
92623.

Going crazy in fast food city, NJ.
Need to talk to some other crazies
around me. I would really like to
find some grooby people and say
goodbye to NJ. Any suggestions or
comments for a confused, mixed up,
undecided lonely person will be
greatly appreciated and can be sent
to Eric Walters, 1030 Field Ave.
Plainfield, NJ 07060

Hey! Are there any LRYers up there
in Alaska? I'll be travelling
there this spring. If there are
I'd really like to meet you.
Please contact me: Noira Doyle;
73 Meadow St.; Guilford, Ct. 06437
(203) 453-9437

Anita Bryant-I hear your stomach's
filled with half-digested homosex-
uals!

To all those at Nexus I, I
lost my workshirt with a Grateful
Dead embroidery on the pocket. It
was given to me by a friend and I
would really love to have it back.
If you know where it is or who has
it, please let me know; that shirt
means a lot to me. Love Pandora
39 Claremont Av. #51, NYC, NY
10027 (212) 866-1810

Howdy y'all southerners in Huntsville
Ala.-(including Mark Anthony)How's the
watertower?Lately I've had the urge to
see it:I was gonna come to the confer-
ence at Thanksgiving but I had really
short notice. Now that your all disap-
pointed..please mail me a photo of the
watertower(okay Mark)!all my love,Pamela
Irving Munchkin.PS-Mark, how about a
ice cube?

Rusty, It's been a long time. I luv
you and so does Sigrid.Please write.
Wendy
Are there any LRYers who are into the
United Nations?Let's talk. Kendy Lucas
349 Hendrickson Ave. Woodbury, NJ 08006
To all "orange robe" love's "Mama" at
Hubart Ave in Summit, NJ:even thorns
are nice. M.L.

Bethy:my first personal!i want you
to know and remember that you are
my one and only people maniacal cor-
rupted german beauty.i love you!!
think summer, and i shall be upon
your doorstep.Laurie

David, You exist! How's married
life? If you don't know, I'm
still available Hee-Hee-Honey
Lemoncrop kisses, Lisette
Kathy-Are you ferocious?Love.
BACKRUBS are Beautiful
To All:I LOVE YOU-Love

Chris Blaisdell, Glenn Cooper,
and Bob Davis are still living
together, this time with Ben
Alexander and Sean deLuben-
turkey at 4 Wallingford Rd.;
Brighton, MA 02135. Our house
is ABCD MDA, and it's fine ex-
cept we miss our family. So
y'all come visit, hear? Love:
Ben, Chris, Glenn, Bob, and
Sean. P.S. The world ends on
either August 31st or Septem-
ber 15th.

All Un-Workshop members, (pronounced
Unnn-Workshop) who were at ConCon,
Please write to me. -Eddie Bell
Dear Kendra and David- Did you get
my letters?-Balkrishna
Dear Ellen- ...so princess Very
Small,Tiny,Early, Tender,Sweet,
Lasser peas said: Hark, a carrot!
I love you, Eddie

EDITOR'S NOTE:

It has been called to my attention
that some of the facts in the abortion
articles were incorrect. The abortion
situation changes rapidly. Things are,
in fact, even worse than we pictured them.
The proposed Constitutional amendments
quoted on page one do not apply only to
state action. They would make all abor-
tions, the pill, and the IUD, illegal in
the U.S. (since these methods of birth
control often prevent implantation of a
fertilized ovum).
In addition, the National Right-to-
Life Committee had a total budget of \$3
million in 1977, not \$250,000. Also,
Orthodox Judaism does not permit abortion,
as inferred in "A Religious View..."
of the resources that were available to us
were outdated.

PEOPLE SOUP: Deadlines and Themes

- 1. Power to the People - Oct 31 (if you
haven't gotten it by now, we don't have
your address, so send it to us)
2. Abortion - Dec. 2 ( see above)
3. Spirituality - Jan 17 (you got it)
4. Creme on Educational Alternatives - March
1 (now is the time for all good LRYers to
come to the aid of their Soup: please yell
send stuff to us!)
5. Sexism - April 16 (see above)
6. Creative Contributions - June 1
7. Creme on Ecology - July 20

At the risk of being redundant, we will
repeat. The idea behind this paper is for
LRYers to have a means of communication with
each other. The exec comm is not supposed
to write the paper, just put it together.
People Soup needs YOU!

Conston-Where are you?Please write
me-I miss you,love Dick
Gente in Lawrence-co to hell!

Is there life after Rowe Camp senior
high? Any ideas for a reunion? Hint:
Write to: Di Kegeles;114 N. Main St.;
W. Hartford, Ct. 06107
That's where your spiritual growth will begin."

Teddy Altshuler: I love you and miss
you muchly,Pa



# BIO-FEEDBACK MONITOR SYSTEM

As I see it, I have two basic needs (or wants, as the case may be) that are fulfilled by LRY. First is the need of a peer group, the desire to accept and be accepted by a group of people who have things in common with me. In this, LRY has filled my needs rather well. As a peer group, LRY does not dictate what an individual does, but rather, that person may do what s/he so desires, at no risk of ostracization from the group as a whole. In short, LRY is an "in group" with an open end for new members. The second of my needs is the need for feedback on my actions. By using LRY as a sounding board, I have discovered many things which hold true in "my world" which may be universally true. By this method, I have learned innumerable things about dealing with people (not just LRYers); things which I believe will aid me on my road through life. As a sounding board, LRY doesn't determine my choices of action, but rather, I do, out of my judgement of what is best for myself, others, and for the world in general.

Its present state, LRY's energies are rather dissipated, or scattered. However I believe that LRY has an extremely high potential, and that upon minor readjustments and refinements, it may continue to serve those who need it, functioning indefinitely, growing and expanding through our love. I believe that that which sustains us as a group is the forces of attraction between the individuals, or cohesion. Together we may go a long way - apart, who knows?

The value of LRY having the Unitarian Universalist denomination as a sponsor has been heavily debated on both sides these past few months. As I see things, the UUA has long given LRY a safe "niche" in the organization of the world; a place in which we may do (within limits) basically what we want to do. This is good, I think, as long as no one allows their rights, as they view them, to be trampled on. Traditionally, the UUA was to help support LRY economically as well as morally, and vice-versa. The open lines of communication, however, between us have broken down, through neglect, mistrust, and new and varied interests. These lines of communication must be made anew, with renewed interest, trust, and dedication from both LRY and the rest of the denomination, for they are essential to the growth of all of us. Without open communication between the old and the young, adults and youth, we are condemning ourselves to isolated stagnation. It is through the free exchange of ideas that there is hope.

If a harmonious agreement is reached between youth and adults, we have yet another sounding board by which to judge our actions. This agreement must be an honest and whole-hearted effort on the part of both sides, else it will fail, bitterly and utterly.

As for my value to Unitarian Universalism, that remains to be seen. I offer ideas, perhaps not new or favorable to all, but they are mine; and young blood. Is this of any value to you?

If our differences are worked out, and the gap between us closed, or at least bridged, we may reach a place in space/time which will benefit us mutually: a reciprocal relationship.

Daniel Hessler  
Huntsville, Al.  
12/25/77

Dear People:

I believe there are many people in this world who have undiscovered religious beliefs and uncultivated spiritual feelings, so I am expressing some of my ideas about spirituality in the hope that some of you might identify with them, or gain some insight into your own spiritual feelings.

It is baffling to think about the ultimate source of creation. I believe there must be some kind of "world soul" responsible for our existence. This source of our being, which I call God, is given a variety of names and characteristics by different religious faiths throughout the world, but I believe that essentially, all religions share a human faith in a being with super-human creative powers. I think that each individual who believes in God must have their own personal idea of what God is. If there is an explanation of how this being relates to our existence, it is beyond our clear comprehension. God is intangible, and there is a lot that I cannot understand about him/her/it. I do believe in God, and my ideas about him/her/it are constantly changing and growing. I experience God through feelings, and I have always felt that God lives inside my soul and the soul of every human being. I can't really find the words to describe this relationship. I think that life is a learning experience, and that there is a definite purpose to it. Maybe if there is life after this human life (which I believe there is) we will be able to better understand the source and the reason for our being.

Love and inspiration,

Kathy



Dear Ladies and Gentlemen!

I am interested in getting pen-friends and asked a friend for addresses, he gave me yours.

Well, I want to get pen-friends from all over the world to correspond about each problem or just to talk by writing. I have a pen-friend circle with six members at the moment. I, myself, am a seventeen-year old German scholar of a technical college, my hobbies are to sleep, to read, youth groups, motorbikes, to listen to music, to write, to flirt, to ride a horse, etc...I will respect each letter or postcard.

Sincerely yours,

Matthias Pilger  
Landgrafenring 26  
6050 Offenbach/Main  
Federal Republic of Germany

Dear People:

I am sure that the last issue of People Soup tuned you in to the present threats to the right of legal abortion. Now we would like to turn you on to taking action to preserve those rights.

The right-to-lifers are everywhere. They hold rallies, march in picket lines, sit in at abortion clinics, have booths at fairs and pass out leaflets on the streets. This summer they had floats in the July 4th parades, and rented an airplane to fly over the Maryland beaches pulling a sign which read: "Abortion Kills People".

The letters to Congress and the state legislators are running at least 25 to 1 against the pro-choice position.

We need your help. Our supporters have been pretty apathetic about this issue, assuming that the Supreme Court decisions of 1973 had made abortion safe and legal for every woman. Unless we get up off our apathy, abortion will once again become illegal in this country.

The lead article on abortion talked about running away, but we can't run away from this issue. We must stay and fight.

Please write letters to all your churches. Ask your minister to give a sermon on abortion rights, or to bring in an outside speaker. Support pro-choice rallies and other events with your presence.

The Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights has affiliates in 14 states. If you live in one of those states, please volunteer to work with them, or with your state chapter of the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL). Both of these groups have a real need for volunteer help to staff booths, work on newsletters, etc. Write to us and we will send you the name of the appropriate contact in your area.

The majority of the American people agree with us on this issue. If we lose, it will be because we have retreated from the battle. The victory will be theirs by default. If you care, please help.

With thanks,

Pat Gavett  
National Director  
Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights  
100 Maryland Avenue, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20002

My name is Permabuzz. I am an LRYer in CVF. I will be 17 when I plan to leave the country this summer, possibly with a friend. I was wondering if any of you LRYers out there could give me advice such as good places to hitch or avoid, good places to visit and stay, etc. I realize several of you out there have gone cross-country before and I would not like to have the same problems occur that you may have had. If any LRYers would like to meet some New England LRYers and chat with them awhile, we'll try to stop by. Before we leave we would like to find out about any conferences that are happening during the summer that we could go to. We plan to eventually go to Continental '78 wherever it's held. I am very interested in meeting some Southern LRYers and comparing how LRY differs there with NERO LRY. Thanks alot and please try to respond as I would greatly appreciate it. Here's the address:

Stephen (PR) Sax  
27 Thomson Rd.  
West Hartford, Conn. 06107

4 Spirituality through worship is one of the fundamental activities of Liberal Religious Youth. In LRY, we are continually searching and recognizing matters of importance to us as individuals, as a group, and as a part of the world we live in.

When this concern and purpose are conveyed through worship, our spirituality becomes more organized and more artistic. The purpose of worship is to direct our spirituality towards a particular concept or object with undivided concentration, instead of the random attention it may receive in our everyday lives.

LRY, and Unitarian Universalism, has what we call "creative worship". This means that we, as an organization, put our own human resources and souls into our worship, instead of following set dogma, as do many other religions. In this way, we have a living, growing religion within our group.

The basic components of an LRY worship service include honesty, trust, and true care and concern for the group as a whole, and as individuals. Worship services are a time of honesty, so that conflicts, traumas, and frustrations can be unleashed and dealt with in a constructive manner. In this way, worship services can be a sort of catharsis (cleansing of the spirit). This feeling can only occur when there is a bond of trust and concern between the participants.

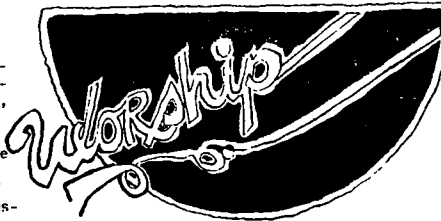
An LRY worship service, if it comes off well, gives each participant a feeling of personal experience and growth. This feeling comes from four basic qualities contained within the structure of a service: 1) quieting, 2) focusing, 3) searching, and 4) fellowship.

"Quieting" is a process that prepares the group for worship. People cannot be rushed into a meditative mood, because they won't be receptive to the ideas or concepts presented before them. The "quieting" period is, in other words, an introductory period for worship. Effective means of achieving this quiet is to have an introductory period of silence, one of music, or poetry readings. There are many ways, and these are just a few. "Quieting" will usually set the worship service out on the right track.

Focusing is a process in which we narrow our thoughts to a specific concept or idea. For example, if we were to have a worship service on loneliness, we might read poetry which

shows different aspects of loneliness. In other words, we are receiving different thoughts on the meanings of loneliness.

The next process of worship usually goes through is that of searching. We would relate (going back to our example of theme) the loneliness we have experienced in our own lives to the poetry readings: how loneliness has affected us, how we can cope with loneliness, and finally, what is the meaning of loneliness. We would be, in effect, searching within ourselves for our personal definition of loneliness.



Barbara Dykes

However, we aren't searching alone. On the contrary, each individual in the group is pondering the loneliness that they have experienced. Thus we search as individuals and yet together as a group through a mutual effort, thus (hopefully) creating fellowship.

These are the basic components characteristic of most LRY worship services. Above all, one should remember that the co-ordinating of a worship is an art. The following is a list of the more practical aspects that any worship co-ordinator should remember:

1. Theme—theme is a very important part of the worship. A lot of thought should be put into the choosing of a theme. This choice depends entirely upon your imagination and the needs and the character of the group to whom it is to be presented. A worship theme often involves a feeling.



For a new and inexperienced worship coordinator, the creation of the theme often proves to be the most difficult and challenging aspect of putting a worship together. The key to creating a good theme is having confidence in your own ability to assess the needs of the group you're working with, and confidence in your own imagination. Nobody expects you to create the perfect worship, that only happens through the participation of the group. What is expected of you is honesty and sincerity.

2. Setting—the theme and the tone of worship services should be relative to the location of the service itself (inside, outside, etc.) and the headspace of the participants. Is everyone really mellow, hyper, frustrated, or angry?
3. Medium—medium is the means through which the theme is conveyed. With a large choice of media available, it is fairly simple to adapt the theme to at least one type of media. Some examples of media are music, drama, modern dance, and choral reading. It is still important to remember that media is relative to the theme and the resources you have available.
4. Symbolism—symbolism is a very delicate part of the worship service. It needs to be subtle enough to still be symbolic, yet obvious enough to be noticeable. Symbolism can be a candle burning, or it can be a circle of new and old leaders in the middle of a larger circle symbolizing the change over of LRY officers. Symbolism is above all completely relative to the group.

One or more of these parts can be eliminated, as in a Quaker meeting service (has no theme). A lack of theme also alters the nature of symbolism. Every worship service must be developed with creativity and contain thematic continuity.

In the focusing part of a worship service, the coordinator should think through his/her personal experiences with the theme (like loneliness) to get a good idea of the aspects that should be brought out through the medium that is used. As I said before, it is absolutely necessary for the theme to be well thought out in advance.

Well, these are basic guidelines for creative worship. The whole of it is up to you and the group. What was said here does not, by any means, need to be followed to the letter. Happy worships and happy cosmos!

Here are some questions to ask yourself when preparing a worship...

1. What are the qualities of a worship that brings it so close to our hearts?
2. What gives worship services such meaning? How do we feel when we worship? What causes us to feel the way we do?
3. What are we searching for (is it in the theme of the conference, or the local meeting program ideas???)



## Ask Barbara?



Dear Barbara,

12/5/77

I am writing to you to ask for help with our church. Our local has recently experienced a turnover in membership; a lot of the older people graduated and left over the summer. When we started meeting again in Sept., we elected all new officers. Thinking of the things to do to keep people together hasn't always been easy, but after some trial and error, we seem to have found a formula for good meetings and we feel that our group is productive and fulfilling to its members.

Our problems come when we try to do anything with our church. We have a good advisor, who has volunteered to help us, but she is relatively new to the church also. The adults in the church don't seem to want to have anything to do with us. We volunteered to provide coffee and donuts after church on Sunday and were told that they didn't need us to, although there isn't anyone doing it now. We tried to have a carwash to raise money, and the president of the church denied us use of the parking lot without any real explanation. The things we have been able to participate in, LRYers were assigned to all the menial labor, which makes us feel like the adults consider us too young to take on any real responsibility.

The only real clues as to why we get a negative reaction from the adults so often are rumors of drug use in the group 2 and 3 years ago. We aren't even the same people who were in LRY then, and personally, if that's the reason, I don't understand why the adults won't give us a chance to prove ourselves more responsible than in previous years. What can we do to fight the close-minded attitude of the church members, so that we can participate with and feel a part of our church community?

Hanging in there,  
Tom

Dear Tom,

1/14/78

If it is any consolation, yours is not the only local that has these kinds of problems. It's obvious that the adults don't think that your LRY group is responsible.

First of all, does anyone from your local attend church/fellowship board meetings? You should send a representative from LRY and have her/him sit in on the meetings. Suggest that the Board give you voting status as a youth representative. If a Youth/Adult Committee doesn't exist at your society, start one. A YAC is exactly what it says: a committee composed of equal numbers of youth and adults. This committee provides for regular communication between the young people and the adults of the community. Your group must show the rest of the congregation that you are responsible. Sponsor intergenerational events such as picnics, social awareness programs or a Youth Sunday service. Invite knowledgeable and creative adults to do programs for your local. Let them know that you may be the youth of today but that you are the future of the Unitarian Universalist faith of tomorrow. They must invest some trust to nurture the growth of responsibility in your group.

Remind the adults that you all are not the same LRYers from two years ago. Your group cannot be held responsible for something that your members had no part in. If many adults are suspicious about what goes on in your youth group, have an open house and invite them to your meeting. Give a short talk about what LRY is, then open up the discussion to a question and answer session. If by chance, the adults start to get on your case about any mistakes you have made (which happened to me in my local once) point out that yours is a self-managing group and, nothing else, your mistakes are educational, a learning process. Emphasize the programmatic and spiritual aspects of the group. Do a worship service at the end.

Above all, remember that your LRY has a responsibility to the rest of the community. Unitarian Universalism is your denomination too, and that Liberal Religious Youth represent an important part of it.

Love and energy,  
Barb

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The New Community

The Advisors Handbook

The Dyadic Encounter 25¢

A Packet of LRY Programs—games and exercises

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Forward Together/ publication of the International Religious Fellowship—free

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