



# UUA Youth Ministries Updates

## New Staff Announcement

The Lifespan Faith Development Staff Group of the UUA is extremely pleased to announce the staffing of the new Youth and Young Adult Ministries Office, effective July 1, 2009.

After an active association-wide search, we are proud to announce that Erik Kesting will be our Youth and Young Adult Ministries Director. In addition, we are also pleased and excited to announce that Nancy DiGiovanni will be our Bridging and Campus Ministry Associate. Erik and Nancy join the recently hired Jeremie Giacoia who will serve as Leadership Development Associate of the Youth and Young Adult Ministries.

Continuing on in their current positions but now in the new Youth and Young Adult Ministries Office are Rev. Dr. Monica Cummings, Associate for Ministry to Youth and Young Adults of Color and Sarah Prager, Youth and Young Adult Ministries Office Administrator. The position of Technology Associate will be filled in September, and will complete the staffing of the Youth and Young Adult Ministries Office.

You can read more about the staff members of the Youth and Young Adult Ministries Office and the work they do by visiting the office's ["Meet the Staff" webpage](#). These six staff members are part of and work collaboratively within the [Lifespan Faith Development Staff Group](#) of the UUA. All thirteen members of the Lifespan Faith Development Staff Group bring a multigenerational lens to our shared ministry with an awareness of the needs, interest, and gifts of people of all ages. We are ready to go forward with the challenging vision of multigenerational, multicultural, radically inclusive Unitarian Universalist faith communities!

In faith,  
Judith

Judith A. Frediani  
Director of Lifespan Faith Development  
Unitarian Universalist Association

This newsletter exists to provide the latest news and opportunities for Unitarian Universalist youth and those who work with youth. It is published by the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries at the Unitarian Universalist Association in Boston, MA.

## Introduction from the Youth and Young Adult Ministries Director

Greetings all,

I hope you are all enjoying the summer, finding fulfillment in your communities, joy in your work, and comfort in your rest. I have been reflecting recently on newly elected UUA President Peter Morales' campaign slogan: "We can be the religion for our time." I find it to be a bold and inspiring statement of faith in our potential—your potential, my potential, our potential.

President Morales was clear, however, when he added, "We cannot seize the opportunity before us unless we are willing to make significant changes. We are not talking about minor adjustments. We need to change our religious culture. We need to become more welcoming, more relevant in the lives of our people, and more involved in the great moral issues of our time."

As most Unitarian Universalist congregations' liturgical year begins in the fall, I invite you to reflect with me this summer on President Morales' challenge. Specifically, when momentum starts to increase at your congregation this fall and everyone seems too busy to change, how will you and your congregation make our movement more welcoming and more relevant to youth and young adults? What will be the moral issues of their time and how can we support them in exploring those issues?

Happy summer, and as always, happy reading!

In faith,  
Erik B. Kesting  
UUA Youth and Young Adult Ministries Director



## Tribute to Kevin Drewery

On Thursday, August 6, Kevin Drewery lost his valiant struggle against AIDS. For those of you who know Kevin, a lasting memory of him will be his love for youth ministry and his sometimes misunderstood advocacy for children and youth whose challenging behavior caused other adults to give up on them.

For those of you who did not know Kevin, he began his involvement with YRUU as an advisor at the Silver Springs, MD congregation. Kevin was also Director of Lifespan Faith Development at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Las Vegas, NV and most recently Director of Religious Education at Mission Peak UU Congregation in Fremont, CA. Kevin also served as a UUA trainer for the Our Whole Lives and the Sexuality and Our Faith programs.

Kevin was a Congregational Consultant for the Pacific Southwest District of the UUA, where he has played a wide variety of roles, including facilitating new DRE start-ups and Religious Education retreats, PSWD Leadership Resources Council, and youth camps ministry team. As the Dean of Elementary Camp and Chaplain at Middle School and Senior High Camps at de Benneville Pines, Kevin's enthusiasm, organizational skills and focus on spirituality will be missed for years to come.

Among numerous distinctions, Kevin received the 2007 Pacific Southwest District's award for Distinguished Service to the Cause of Unitarian Universalism by a Religious Professional. This is only the second time this award has been given to a non-ordained religious professional. Before becoming seriously ill, Kevin was in his second year of study for his Master of Divinity degree at Starr King School for the Ministry.

Kevin will no doubt be remembered by his constant creative energy, awe-inspiring worship services, beautiful purple alter cloths, and Lego chalices that he designed for at least two congregations.

Kevin is no longer with us in body however, his spirit will live on in the hearts and minds of the UU children, youth and adults who he ministered to and with during his well lived, yet too short life.

## Concerned about Climate Change?

At the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office, we are too! Every April, youth and adults from around the United States and Canada gather in New York City for our exciting and educational **\*Intergenerational Spring Seminar\***.

This year's topic will be **\*Climate Change\***! It will take place: **April 8-10, 2010**. You should attend the Spring Seminar to gain a deep understanding on topic of global concern, listen to insightful speakers from around the world, learn, make friends, have fun, and even sleep, as well as take on important leadership roles in its planning and execution.

In order to make the Spring Seminar possible, we need all the help we can get from our community. You can do this by being on a **\*Spring Seminar Committee\***! These include speaker-seekers, food providers, finance management, publicity, and event planning. Being on a committee entails meeting frequently with other members of your committee and helping us smoothen the planning of the Spring Seminar. People on committees **\*do not have to pay\*** to attend the Spring Seminar. To join a committee or find out about other leadership opportunities, contact [Jessie@uu-uno.org](mailto:Jessie@uu-uno.org).

## Apply to be the Next HUUPER!

All interested youth are invited to apply for Junior HUUPER (Dean of Youth Caucus)! It is a two-year position, requiring attendance at GA 2010 and 2011, as well as planning meetings. HUUPERS lead meetings at GA, check in with other youth staff, communicate with the larger GA community, and work with the UUA and the GA Planning Committee to make GA great for everyone.

Applications are due August 15th and require two letters of recommendation. You can find the full announcement [HERE](#).

Please contact the Youth and Young Adult Ministries Office at [youth@uua.org](mailto:youth@uua.org) with any questions or for more information.



## Youth Ministry at General Assembly

Hours and hours of GA coverage are available at [uua.org](http://uua.org), including several youth ministry related presentations. You can find the audio and video coverage of GA 2009 [HERE](#).

Some of the items of interest may include the Synergy Worship on Tuesday, Saturday's Youth Ministry: Imagining a New Future Together Workshop, Sunday's Plenary VI (Youth Ministry presentation begins at 7:40), and the GA Youth Postcard from Sunday as well.

All of the plenary sessions, numerous workshops, the Ware Lecture, and worships are all available as streaming video. Check it out!

## Grant with Interfaith Youth Core

The [Unitarian Universalist Association](http://www.uua.org) is pleased to announce their acceptance of a \$100,000 grant from the Large Grants Program of the [Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock, Manhasset, NY](http://www.interfaithyouthcore.org). The grant will fund a yearlong partnership with the [Interfaith Youth Core](http://www.interfaithyouthcore.org) (IFYC), a non-profit based in Chicago, IL. IFYC's founder, Eboo Patel, is the author of *Acts of Faith*, published by Beacon Press, and serves on President Obama's White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships.

The generous funding will enable the UUA and IFYC to create an interfaith curriculum and offer interfaith leadership training opportunities to UU youth and their allies across the country. IFYC builds mutual respect and pluralism among young people from different religious traditions by empowering them to work together to serve others. Both IFYC and the UUA deeply value service to the larger community and strengthening bonds across our multicultural society.

The UUA Lifespan Faith Development staff would like to connect with UU youth involved in interfaith work on the local level or planning to attend IFYC's Leadership Conference in October; contact [nyork@uua.org](mailto:nyork@uua.org).

## Standing on the Side of Love

The Standing on the Side of Love campaign has taken off with over 5,000 fans on Facebook, and congregations across the country are ordering banners, standing on the side of love in worship, in interfaith coalitions, and community partnerships.

Standing on the Side of Love is a public advocacy campaign, initiated by the UUA, to promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person and the commitment that no person should be dehumanized through acts of exclusion, oppression, and violence.

We'd love to hear what you are doing and how the campaign can support you, your youth or young adult group, and your congregation as you stand on the side of love.

[Connect at www.standingonthesideoflove.org](http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org)

(Congregational Toolkit coming soon!)

[Find us on Facebook](#)

[Sign the pledge to Stand on the Side of Love!](#)

## Step Up to Serve on UUA Committees

The UUA relies upon energetic, committed, visionary UUs to serve the twenty-plus committees, panels and task forces that work with staff and the UUA Board to carry out the mission of the Association. We are eager to draw volunteers from the rich diversity of our movement: diversity of race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation and identity, age, geography, skills, and vocation.

Every two years, the Committee on Committees (CoC) reviews and brings recommendations to the Board for appointment and re-appointment to all Board-appointed committees. This year, the Board will be appointing members to the two-year term beginning January 1, 2010, and re-appointing as appropriate.

Please complete the online application for Board-appointed committees at this [link](#), if you wish to be considered for a January appointment that interests you. The deadline is August 24, 2009.