



Tapestry of Faith

Social Justice Programs and Resources – June 2010

www.uua.org/tapestryoffaith

Children

Faithful Journeys (Second/Third Grade) – Online

By the Rev. Alice Anacheke-Nasemann and the Rev. Lynn Ungar

While a questioning spirit is part of our faith, our children need to learn who Unitarian Universalists are, what we believe, and how we act on our faith. Faithful Journeys equips children with language and experiences to develop a strong UU faith identity, using historic and contemporary stories of UU faith in action and opportunities for children to articulate their own stories of faithful action.

Windows and Mirrors (Fourth/Fifth Grade) – Online

By Gabrielle Farrell, Natalie Fenimore, and Dr. Jenice View

A metaphor of windows and mirrors represents the dynamic relationship among our awareness of self, our perceptions of others, and others' perceptions of us. Stories and activities train participants to notice and respond to marginalization and injustice.

Heeding the Call (Junior High) – Summer 2010 online publication

By Nicole Bowmer and Jodi Tharan

Heeding the Call is a social justice curriculum that not only explores linked oppressions in our society, but also encourages participants towards personal growth in values that counteract the marginalization of others. Workshops on empathy, courage, abundance, joy, and other qualities ask participants to recognize how these standards can be tools for justice. Additionally, the program includes more concrete tools, such as suggestions on how to be a good ally and tips on the language of conflict resolution. True stories of courage, sacrifice and collaboration, role-plays, games, and a program-long justice project will feed youth's rising realization that as people of faith we are all called to love justice—not just with our words, but also with our deeds.

Multigenerational

Gather the Spirit (Multigenerational) – Online

By Richard S. Kimball and Christine Rafal

Eight sessions focus on the stewardship of water, the shared resource on which all life depends. We can and must join with other progressive and caring forces to sustain and improve life on earth. This serious purpose embraces joyful, shared experience, inviting participants not just to help save the world, but to engage together in learning and action.

Youth

Journeys of the Spirit – October 2010 print publication

By Jenn McAdoo and Anne Principe

Mission: an inner calling to pursue an activity or perform a service. Many congregational youth groups are following an inner call to provide service to our communities. The calls range from activities within the congregation to actions in another part of the world. The Mission Trip Handbook is a guide for leaders interested in including youth in transformative experiences of doing justice in the world. Whether it is helping to rebuild in the wake of Hurricane Katrina or cleaning up parks with Navaho youth on a reservation, asking youth to step outside their small communities and work with others toward a common good can be a life changing experience. The authors of this guidebook – who have lead several mission trips – provide useful information on how to organize such a trip from start to finish, in addition to illustrating how mission trips can deepen Unitarian Universalist identity and grow greater commitments to work towards the more equitable and peaceful world we all desire.

Chorus of Faiths – Early 2011 online publication

By Hannah McConnaughay (IFYC) and Renee Ruchotzke (UU)

In 2009, the Lifespan Faith Development working group and the Interfaith Youth Core, a Chicago-based organization, received a \$100,000 grant from the Congregation at Shelter Rock, NY, to develop a plan to increase leadership in interfaith work amongst UU youth. Leadership training and a congregational curriculum, as well as other instruments, will help seed a commitment to interfaith work based upon cooperative service to the community. As Unitarian Universalists, we are uniquely qualified to do this work. Our history holds numerous examples of working with other faith communities to bring about social change. Our congregations are ripe in the theological diversity in which we rejoice. Today's youth will build upon this history and modern day embrace of religious pluralism as they help our world engage in breaking down walls and building up communities of shared values and common goals.

When Youth Lead: A Guide to Intergenerational Social Justice Ministry (Toolkit Book)

– In print

By Jill M. Schwendeman

Based on a view of youth as equal participants in congregational life, this resource guides adults who work with youth to construct and maintain a healthy, spiritually vital youth ministry which embraces social justice work. Teens are an enormous generative force for our faith communities, and the suggestions here support rich partnerships among children, youth, adults, and elders. Includes practical tips for 101 social action projects.

Coming of Age Handbook for Congregations – In print

By the Rev. Sarah Gibb Millspaugh

A comprehensive, practical treasury of tools offers workshops for youth, small group ministry sessions for parents, social action projects, and rites of passage. Participants explore theology, history, and other topics in discussion, drama, music, writing, and art. Addressing all the components of UU Coming of Age programs, this resource guides congregations to design their own approach.

Adult and Young Adult

Building the World We Dream About - Online

By Dr. Mark Hicks

This program seeks to interrupt the workings of racism and transform how people from different racial/ethnic groups understand and relate to one another. It consists of 24 two-hour workshops, with Taking It Home activities, reflections, and readings to be done between workshops. The program creates opportunities for participants to practice dreaming our world otherwise, and then commit to new, intentional ways of being. As Unitarian Universalists, we hope developing antiracist, antioppressive, and multicultural habits and skills will lead us to build the multicultural world of beloved community we dream about.

History of Unitarian Universalist Resistance and Transformation – Late Fall 2010 online publication

By the Rev. Colin Bossen and the Rev. Julia Hamilton.

In this 16-workshop program, participants examine social justice values and action in our Unitarian Universalist history. Each workshop explores a social justice theme through historical stories and primary source material, and then invites participants to reflect on how the theme is manifested in contemporary Unitarian Universalism. Participants explore how these themes impact their own commitment to social justice work and point the way to future action. Grounded in the belief that even "failures" in our history can be instructive, this program presents our history as the ongoing struggle of our tradition to live up to its ever-evolving ideals of social transformation. The workshops may be used singly and in a variety of combinations.

The New UU- Online

By the Rev. Jonalu Johnstone

This program comprises six thematic workshops for congregations to use in introducing our Unitarian Universalist faith tradition to newcomers. Each workshop offers opportunities for participants to connect with one another, to engage with the stories and traditions of our faith, and to find out more about the mission, practices, and projects of the local congregation. Workshop themes include theology and worship, Unitarian Universalist history, lifespan faith development, social justice theory and practice, governance, and membership.

A Study Guide to *Milk* – Online

By the Rev. Mark Belletini

This guide for the 2008 film, *Milk*, includes background, discussion questions, and resources for putting faith in action. *Milk* is a film biography of Harvey Milk, a great leader of the 1970s Gay and Lesbian Rights Movement and the first openly gay elected official in the U.S. Milk and San Francisco mayor George Moscone were assassinated in November 1978 by Dan White, also a member of the city's Board of Supervisors.

Non-Tapestry Resources

Study Guides to Beacon Press books- see www.beacon.org

The Mosaic Project and Report: An Assessment of Unitarian Universalist Ministry to Youth and Young Adults of Color and Latina/o and Hispanic and Multiracial/Multiethnic descent – see <http://www.uua.org/leaders/idbm/multiculturalism/mosaic/index.shtml>