



## Guardian of the Future Recipients Embody the Power of Community

*Irene Keim, Co-Chair, UU Ministry for Earth Board*

**A**t the UUA General Assembly in Charlotte, NC last June, by UU Ministry for Earth (UUMFE) recognized two outstanding UU leaders with its Guardian of the Future Award. Joan Gregory, First Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City (UT), and Lynne Nittler, UU Church of Davis (CA), have been active and effective organizers of programs in both their respective home congregations and their wider communities, and both are inspired by young people.



**Joan Gregory** has been a leader in Earth ministry programs for her congregation for over seven years and led and/or participated in multiple groups – the Environmental Ministry Committee, the Social Justice Council,

the Animal Rights Group, the Community Garden project, and the Legacy (facilities) Committee. The programs Joan has led include courses about Earth issues and sustainability, the building of a community garden, a Three R's Swap Meet (reduce, reuse, recycle) that includes the surrounding neighborhood and is conducted without the exchange of money, the transition to all green cleaning and grounds maintenance materials, and the planning for a sustainable future in facilities decisions.

Joan and her congregation have also taken this work to the denominational level by participating in the UUA social action statement process by proposing/sponsoring and supporting Actions of Immediate Witness (AIW). The AIW in support of the

Red Rock Wilderness Act was profiled in this Newsletter in the Fall 2009 issue.

And, Joan has not stopped with the UU community. She is the congregational liaison to community action groups such as Tim DeChristopher and Peaceful Uprising, Bioneers, Citizens for Sustainability, Great Lake Lakekeeper, HEAL Utah, Post Carbon Salt Lake, Utah Interfaith Power and Light, Utah Moms for Clean Air, and Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment. Peaceful Uprising has been a leader in the Tar Sands Action events that so many UUs across the country have supported.

**Lynne Nittler** is a former English teacher and native of California, so her roots are deep and she cares about the future for her students. Since seeing one of the first photos of Earth taken from space in 1969, she has been inspired to live lightly on the planet.

Since 1977, Lynne has lived in Village Homes, a planned community that emphasizes sustainable living and encourages gardening.

Through the years Lynne has enjoyed her passive solar home, kept a low carbon footprint, and grown enough vegetables and fruits in her garden to feed her family and generously share with others.

She supported and worked with many environmental efforts and organizations, but became worried that the environmental

*"Action is freeing. I feel hopeful that we can turn a corner and learn to live differently. At the very least, I know the power of community!"*  
— Lynne Nittler

*cont'd on page 3*

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Ministry for Earth

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### ABOUT UUMFE

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in which reverence, grati-  
tude, and care for the living  
Earth is central to the lives  
of all people. As a 501(c)3  
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## From the Board

### “If Not Me, Then Who?”

The title question was the theme of the Northwest Earth Institute’s Biennial Gathering in mid-September in Port Townsend, Washington. I had the opportunity to attend on behalf of UU Ministry for Earth. I was pleasantly surprised to find that UUs are held in high esteem by the NWEI staff and partners because so many congregations have used the curricula and also because UUs are likely to follow-up with taking action. Being willing to take action because of – or, at times, in spite of – the overwhelming amount of information coming our way, much of it doom and gloom, is an on-going challenge.

This summer we have seen the courage of a number of our fellow UUs as they were arrested for protesting the Tar Sands Pipeline in front of the White House. We’ve seen the commitment of those who write letters and call legislators protesting efforts to undo protections from the Clean Air and Clean Water

Acts. We’ve seen the persistence of those who keep returning to New Orleans to help finish the clean-up from Katrina. We’ve seen the passion of those who speak out for the rights of immigrants.

It’s easy to admire those who take risks and push the envelope and then to say, “That’s not my style” or “I don’t have time” or any number of other excuses. But at some point, we all need to ask “If not me, then who?” and to take the next uncomfortable step to stop something we abhor or to protect something we love. It’s easier to do in community, but it takes each person’s willingness to take action to make a difference.

I came back from the NWEI conference fired up to get as many groups in Cleveland (UU and other congregations, schools, businesses, libraries, neighborhood groups, etc.), to take the “Menu for the Future” course to try to change the conversation around local, healthy food. I was inspired by how the community of Port Townsend had embraced the process and excited by what it could mean for my city. At the same time, I know it will be a huge effort and that I have too many things on my plate already, but “If not me, then who?”

Conference speaker Kurt Hoelting, author of *The Circumference of Home: One Man’s Yearlong Quest for a Radically Local Life*, challenged us saying “The invitation I leave you with is to really ‘up the ante.’ To dare one another, in a way, to move in the direction of something bold. Something that begins to match the scale of the challenge we face.”

**How about you? What’s the boldest action you can imagine taking to move yourself or your community to greater sustainability?**

*Nancy King Smith, Co-Chair, UU Ministry for Earth Board* ♦



Photo: Northwest Earth Institute

## News From UU Ministry For Earth

### Guardian of the Future . . . from page 1

movement had not kept pace with the continuing degradation of the planet. In 2007, Lynne was drawn to the UU Church of Davis, specifically to join the Green Sanctuary program. Lynne tirelessly shared her skills and interests in the program and has served as co-chair of the Green Sanctuary Committee for the last three years. She also taught NWEI environmental classes, led Low Carbon Diet teams, collected signatures in support of environmental issues, written weekly bulletin notices, and helped develop an annual Earthfest, which has become a church-wide celebration of Earth Day.

In 2009, as part of Green Sanctuary outreach work, she began to work on City of Davis projects to educate and inspire all Davis citizens to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. This led to forming the Cool Davis Initiative in 2010 – created by a network of residents, businesses, the City of Davis, and local groups – “to inspire our community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to a changing climate, and improve the quality of life for all.” Lynne became founding member and secretary of the Cool Davis Foundation, an organization dedicated to supporting the efforts of the Cool Davis Initiative.

With the backing of these two organizations, Lynne used her prodigious organizing abilities to co-chair and supervise the development and execution of the Cool Davis Green Living Festival in October 2010. The Festival brought about 1700 citizens together for a free, fun, interactive, educational, and inspirational celebration. In solidarity with



350.org's 10-10-10 climate actions worldwide, the zero-waste festival connected low-carbon lifestyle choices with a healthy environment, personal well-being, international eco-justice, and thriving communi-

ty. The City of Davis presented its 2011 Environmental Recognition Award to Lynne, in recognition of her outstanding work that has improved the environmental quality of life in and around the city of Davis. Another successful Cool Davis Festival was held on Oct. 16, 2011, and featured a theme of "What's On Your Plate?"

Do you have an eco-hero in your congregation who

deserves recognition? If so, plan to present a special certificate during your Earth Day celebration, then nominate him or her for the 2012 Guardian of the Future Award. Watch for details on the UUMFE website early next year. ♦

### ***Hungry for Change: Food, Ethics and Sustainability, a New Discussion Course From NWEI***

*Nancy King Smith, UUMFE Board Co-Chair*



**T**his new six-session food systems course is designed for those who know that our eating choices are important, and want to delve deeper into the intricacies of our food system.

From climate change to the rights of Florida tomato farmers to the global geopolitics of food, *Hungry for Change* examines how the availability of food and its production, distribution and consumption are the workings of a deeply complex system that is affected by and affects all of us.

NWEI Curriculum Director Lacy Cagle says that while *Menu for the Future* puts the focus on the “you” in our relationships and roles in food systems, the new curriculum puts the focus on the systems.

*“We really wanted to emphasize the complicated interconnections among politics, health, social justice, ethics, and environmental impact in food systems, while still looking at how we contribute to and what we can do to change these systems.”*

*Hungry for Change* includes action plans, a great way to help participants commit to lasting change. From podcasts to interactive websites, the new course provides excellent additional resources for those who are hungry for more. See the course flier at: <http://www.nwei.org/hungry-for-change-course-flier/view>. Course books can be ordered through the NWEI website.

Note: if you select UUMFE/Green Sanctuary as your “connection” when you order this or any of the other excellent discussion guides, NWEI will share some of the profit with UUMFE. ♦

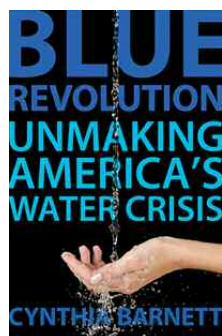
## News From UU Ministry For Earth

### Beacon Press Publishes Cynthia Barnett's *Blue Revolution*

Ellen McClaran, UUMFE Board Member

On Sept. 20, Beacon Press published *Blue Revolution: Unmaking America's Water Crisis*, a valuable addition to the list of water justice resources developed by UUMFE for Earth Day 2011: Sacred Waters. The book's author, Cynthia Barnett, is an award-winning journalist specializing in environmental and water issues. Her first book, *Mirage: Florida and the Vanishing Water of the Eastern U.S.*, won the gold medal for best nonfiction in the Florida Book Awards.

In *Blue Revolution*, Barnett suggests that the best solution to the looming water crisis in the United States is also the simplest and least expensive – a



national water ethic. The authors of two other books in the UUMFE water justice resource list highly recommend the book.

Fred Pearce, author of *When the Rivers Run Dry*, says: "Aldo Leopold helped found twentieth-century American environmental thinking with his call for

a land ethic. Barnett has done a great service by calling for a twenty-first-century water ethic. She tackles America's illusion of water abundance in the way past thinkers attacked our old ideas about an endless western frontier. Of the new crop of books on water, this one may be the most important."

Robert Glennon, author of *Unquenchable: America's Water Crisis and What to Do About It*, adds:

"Barnett's clarion call to her fellow citizens imagines an America where it's ethically wrong to waste water. Using compelling stories from around the globe, she shows that America's future depends upon our coming to value water – not only in the price we pay, but with profound appreciation for each drop."

You may order the book at the Beacon Press website:

<http://www.beacon.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=2224>. Find additional water justice resources at <http://uuministryforearth.org/2011-ED-WaterJusticeResources>. ♦

### Environmental Justice Curriculum To Be Published In November

Nancy King Smith, UUMFE Board Co-Chair

The UU Ministry for Earth is producing an Environmental Justice curriculum to help congregations understand and become engaged with environmental justice activities. The introductory module will be published on the UUMFE website in November.

In preparation for the roll-out, we conducted two webinars to help help congregations learn more about the curriculum and how it is designed. Materials from the webinars are on the UUMFE website – click on "Resources." ♦

#### Thank You, Rowan

Rowan Van Ness has been our Environmental Justice Program Associate for the past two years. She is now moving on – serving as the Coming-of-Age Coordinator at First Parish in Cambridge, MA, as well as a staff member at Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, where she will coordinate a Young Adult Conference this summer, as well as other projects. Rowan made an invaluable contribution to the work of UU Ministry for Earth and she will be sorely missed! We are not totally letting her go – we have contracted for her help with the Earth Day materials this year.

### Tar Sands Action and More!

Ellen McClaran, UUMFE Board Member

There have certainly been plentiful environmental justice (EJ) action opportunities for UU congregations this year – from Earth Day actions around water justice and the Ethical Eating SOC at GA to 350.org's Moving Planet and the new National Food Day this month. UUMFE board members even participated in the Northwest Earth Institute's annual EcoChallenge during the first two weeks of October. Now we have the emerging "occupy" movement that many congregations have already embraced.

But a major focus of UU EJ actions this summer and fall has been on the tar sands of Alberta and the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline, a potential cultural and environmental disaster. From Aug. 20 to Sept. 3,

## News From UU Ministry For Earth

UUs from across the country came to Washington, D.C., to protest the pipeline in daily civil disobedience actions at the White House. 350.org and Peaceful Uprising organized the Tar Sands Action. Around twenty UUs were among the 1,000+ arrested during the two weeks, including UUMFE Board member Vince Pawlowski, past President Barbara Ford, past Treasurer Terry Wiggins, and MFE consultant Pam Sparr. See the photos on the back page of this newsletter. Terry wrote the next article, in which she talks about her experience and gives a good overview of the issues. This first appeared on the UU Green Sanctuary and Global Warming listservs and in the UUA Green Sanctuary blog – <http://greensanctuary.blogs.uua.org/> – where you can read additional Tar Sands Action stories.

Many UUs also participated in the State Dept. hearings in Sept./Oct. and plan to travel to Washington, D.C., again on Nov. 6, exactly one year until the next election, where they will try to encircle the White House to show President Obama that he has the support he needs to reject the pipeline. Can you join them? Go to <http://www.tarsandsaction.org/> for details and read more about the pipeline.

As we go to press with this newsletter, it appears that Occupy Wall Street and the 100+ other occupy sites may be taking on a green cast. When asked by occupiers, "Why are you here?" Phil Aroneanu of 350.org responds, "We're a climate change advocacy group. The reason that we haven't had any change on climate change is because coal companies, gas companies, oil companies, and their Wall Street financiers have rigged the system and bought out our politicians" (from an interview with Robert Moor for NRDC's *On Earth*). Things are getting interesting! ♦

### Why I Protested the Tar Sands Pipeline

*Terry Wiggins, UU Society of Milwaukee and former UUMFE Board Member*

**W**hat would lead an ordinary person like me to the White House fence? My immediate inspirations were three: Tim DeChristopher, my daughter Erica, and Bill McKibben.

I found Tim's actions to be truly inspirational. His civil disobedience in 2008, for which he was sen-

tenced to two years in prison this year, and his words upon being sentenced – "I do not want mercy; I want you to join me" – were powerful.

I also remembered Erica's comment, "Mom, why didn't you do this earlier?," referring to my environmental activism.

Bill McKibben clinched the deal that I would go when he publicized the action he had organized, and said that "those of us without kids or careers to worry about" should be the ones on the front lines.

Other inspirations were probably in the back of my mind, including my husband Bruce, my granddaughters, and fellow religionists. When I met Bruce, he had participated in anti-war work and demonstrations; I had never done any such thing. We now have two adorable granddaughters (thanks, Erica!) to whom we want to leave a livable world. A couple of decades ago, we became Unitarian Universalists, and met people who truly had the courage of their convictions, and moved (not just stood up) for what they believed in. I learned to be a conservationist (the original conservatives?) from my parents.

#### What is the Tar Sands issue and why is it important?

There are sands under boreal forests, especially in Alberta, Canada. Those who want to exploit them call them "oil sands" and those of us who want to protect them call them "tar sands." There's no oil, only gunk called bitumen mixed with sand.

Oil companies would build the Keystone XL Pipeline from the Alberta Tar Sands, south to Texas refineries, and then on to the highest bidder. First Nations communities in Canada and Native American tribes along the pipeline route in the U.S. have already experienced some desecration of their lands, and have demanded the destruction ceases.

Keystone would cross the Ogallala aquifer in Nebraska, a major water source, including for much of American agriculture, and it is predicted to have relatively frequent leaks. Another concern about the Tar Sands Pipeline is the long-term climate change consequences: climatologist James Hansen has said that "if the tar sands are thrown into the mix it is essentially game over" to stabilize climate and "disastrous global climate impacts."



## News From UU Ministry For Earth

(cont'd from p. 5) For all these reasons, and more, building the pipeline wouldnt help get the US off foreign oil (much less get off oil altogether) and it would be an environmental injustice to First Nations/Native Americans and to future generations. In general, it would be a disaster for our society. "Silence is Deadly," as Hansen recently titled a paper.

### What Now?

The decision to issue a permit for the Keystone XL is in President Obama's court and will probably be decided by the end of November. He alone must make the decision, although he will be advised by the State Department. Fortunately, Congress doesn't have anything to say about it. ♦

## News From Members and Congregations

### Chandler, AZ UUs Participate in 350.org's Moving Planet on Sept. 24

Ellen McClaran, UUMFE Board Member

Karen, Stucke, Green Sanctuary chair at Valley UU Congregation in Chandler, AZ sent UUME the *Arizona Republic's* coverage of Chandler's Moving Planet event, organized by the Interfaith Power and Light group of Phoenix and the ASU School for Sustainability. Her Green Sanctuary group participated and Karen reports: "It was a story-telling event about the effects of climate change on people, animals, and ecosystems throughout the world. There were about 100 people attending. We marched on the ASU campus and vicinity carrying arrows with the message, 'Move Beyond Fossil Fuel.'" The title of the newspaper article was, appropriately, *Pointing the Way!* ♦



(SICM) submitted the grant to DEC, and FUSS continued to be involved, with several volunteers working throughout the project and others joining in as needed.

The grant was for \$50,000 for education in the inner city about proper handling and disposal of household hazardous waste. In 2009, the working committee planned, prepared public education materials, hired an outreach worker from the inner city community, and started the public outreach campaign. We had one collection day in October 2010 and another in June 2011, both at the SICM Food Pantry parking lot, centrally located and easily accessible to the population we were serving.

After the meager household hazardous waste collection we did in October 2010, our June 25, 2011 collection was successful beyond our wildest dreams. About sixty people had pre-registered, almost double the number in 2010. People who pre-registered were assigned to come at 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, and 1:00, about a quarter of the total at each hour. By 9:45 there were over twenty cars already lined up!



### Schenectady UU Society Completes Environmental Justice Project

Nancy Peterson, First Unitarian Society of Schenectady, NY

The First Unitarian Society of Schenectady, NY, (FUSS) has completed a three-year Environmental Justice project. Working with Schenectady Inner City Ministry (SICM), a grant proposal was submitted to New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Office of Environmental Justice in April 2008. Grant approval was received in October 2008. FUSS Green Sanctuary initiated the idea, Schenectady Inner City Ministry

When we started checking the registrations, we found far more unregistered than pre-registered. Although we had an incentive program to encourage pre-registration (a \$10 gift certificate to Target), most people were there not for the gift certificate, but because they wanted to get rid of many years' accumulation of household hazardous waste. By noon, the truck was almost filled to capacity. At that point we decided to turn away unregistered people so that those who were assigned to come at 1:00

## News From Members and Congregations

wouldn't be justifiably irate. Of course many unregistered were irate, because pre-registration was not required.

Although the County has a monthly collection at Hetcheltown Road, many people hadn't heard about it. There is obviously quite a need for this service. We hope our three-year grant program has served as a pilot for the city or county to follow up at various locations, convenient to various populations within our local area. Jeff Edwards, County Solid Waste Planner, said he is interested in continuing to hold a collection day at the SICM Food Pantry parking lot once each year. ♦

### ***Freedom Through Frugality: Spend Less, Have More***

*Reviewed by Barry Thomas, Bradford Community Church UU, Kenosha, WI*

**A**uthor Jane Dwinell's bio is as interesting as her book. In addition to being a UU Minister and independent small congregation consultant, she also lists being a nurse, farmer, business owner, chef, carpenter, salsa maker, maple syrup producer, quilt maker, knitter, actress, singer, yoga practitioner, long distance runner, downhill skier, disc golf player, and live-aboard boater as things she has

done. Undoubtedly these diverse experiences provided the background for her to learn how to be frugal with her time and money.

In this book we learn that frugal consumers think before they buy something and analyze if it's neces-

sary to a fulfilling and happy life. They know how to avoid debt, make their own fun, prepare a meal from scratch, mend clothes, and use the library. Many of us might equate being frugal with being cheap and living a Depression Era lifestyle, but this book makes it clear that nothing could be further from the truth. Being frugal is about living in comfort as you define it. You don't have to give up things you truly enjoy, but you need to determine exactly what it is you want and need and then find a way to get that without breaking the bank.

You will learn that advantages of being a frugal consumer including saving money and improving your

health and the health of the planet. You will have more time to do what you enjoy doing as well as feeling good because you are part of the solution not part of the problem.

Part two of the book provides many practical tips for becoming a frugal consumer in every aspect of our lives. I particularly enjoyed this section because there is no insistence that we all follow a particular life style, and different degrees of being frugal are provided. No guilt trips are put on you and everyone will find something they can embrace. We find out how to be frugal and have fun at the same time. *Freedom Through Frugality* will provide excellent discussion material for Green Sanctuaries, environmental groups, and anyone interested in reducing unnecessary consumption and living lightly on the planet. I highly recommend it. ♦

### **Reverend Bob Murphy Honored by Sierra Club**

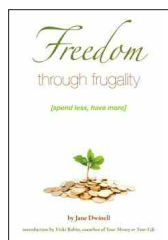
*Ellen McClaran, UUMFE Board Member*

**T**he Sierra Club recognized Rev. Bob Murphy, minister of the UU Fellowship of Falmouth, MA, and long-time UU Ministry for Earth member and supporter, for his over forty years of volunteer contributions. Bob received the Club's Special Service Award at its annual awards celebration in San Francisco on Sept. 23.

Bob is a member of the Cape Cod & Islands Group of the Massachusetts Chapter of the Sierra Club. A recent club news article noted: "During the Chapter's early years, Bob wore the various hats of office manager, newsletter editor, and Boston Harbor Islands volunteer. More recently, Bob has used his work experience, education, and position in the community to bring attention and resources to environmental justice issues."

The Sierra Club's Special Service Award is for strong and consistent commitment to conservation or the Club over an extended period of time.

Congratulations, Bob, for the award and thank you for your long history of environmental activism. ♦





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Return Service Requested

### August 29 – Interfaith Day at the Tar Sands Action

1. Barbara Ford speaks to crowd
2. UUMFE Banner
3. March to White House
4. Vince Pawlowski arrested
5. Barbara arrested
6. Terry Wiggins arrested
7. Waiting to be arrested



*all photos: Josh Lopez, tarsandsaction.org*

### Your Support Is Needed and Appreciated – Please Consider a Year-end Gift

This issue of the UUMFE newsletter highlights exciting projects that depend on you. Your donations make possible the work towards Earth ministry as an integral part of our UU experience. Go to [www.uuministryforearth.org](http://www.uuministryforearth.org) for donation options, as well as many UUMFE resources. Thank you for your support. ♦