



Opportunities For Environmental Justice Engagement at Providence GA

Ellen McClaran, UU Ministry for Earth Board Member

This year's General Assembly (GA) offers many workshops and activities related to environmental/ecological justice that may be of interest to UUMFE members and supporters. This is particularly true for congregations looking for projects for their Green Sanctuary action plans.

Please check your program for the location of the offerings described below. Come by our booth in the exhibit hall (#203) for a visit and learn about our new EJ "Table Talks," described at the top of the next column. UU Divest, the group that spearheaded the Business Resolution on Fossil Fuel Divestment will be sharing our booth – see article on page 5. Hope to see you at GA!

UUMFE is sponsoring two workshops this year, both on Friday. **Faithful Response: Antiracism From Hurricanes Katrina, Sandy & Beyond**, co-sponsored with UU Trauma Response Ministries and the Central East Regional group, is at 10:30 a.m. Participants will learn how the structures of racism and interlocking oppressions inequitably affect recovery efforts and the UU way to respond.

Singing For Our Lives will begin at 5:00 p.m. with Sandy O and Pat Humphries of *emma's revolution*, Tim DeChristopher of *Bidder 70* fame, and Curtis Murphy, UUMFE's Young Adult EJ Intern for 2013-14. Participants will sing, hear stories, and learn how to get their own UU communities singing for justice.

Table Talks for small groups will be scheduled several times a day throughout GA. Pick up the schedule and register at UUMFE's booth, #203. Topics will include: Earth-based liturgy/theology; basics of EJ and how to get started; creating an environmental film library; becoming a Green Faith Fellow; divestment/reinvestment strategies; and many more.

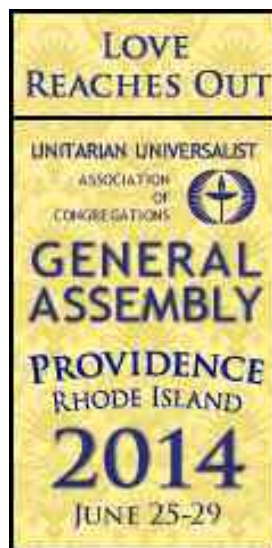
Several other workshops focus on the environment and/or ecological justice. Here are a few – see the GA program for dates and times.

Lappé, Miller, Jacobsen, and Joy: Just Good Food – Environmental pioneer Frances Moore Lappé (*Diet for a Small Planet*), stand-up comic Marisa Miller Wolfson (*Vegucated*), restaurant labor organizer Ariel Jacobsen (of *Behind the Kitchen Door*), and psychologist Melanie Joy (*Why We Love Dogs & Eat Pigs*) will discuss climate action, class justice, and the joy of just eating.

Love Reaches Out To Address Our Climate Crisis – This workshop will review the science, discuss the grief associated with climate change, address how communities are and will be affected its

effects, and suggest actions participants can take in their congregations and larger communities.

Emergency: Lead, Inspire, Grow – In this new age of climate disruption, participants will learn the basics for emergency preparation and response work and how to make their congregations safer. ♦



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in which reverence, grati-
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Earth is central to the lives
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Message From the Board Chair

Going From Here To Tomorrow

Recent discourse in the media indicates that more leaders are speaking truth about climate change and human contributions to the root causes. Does this make you feel that we are being heard – that our communications, marches, or prayers are being heeded? That our connections have impact? And, does the news of the day have you frozen in place, or do you feel grief in your more quiet moments? Rev. Kurt Kuhwald described this duality as “Unfurling and Unraveling” in a sermon at the First Unitarian Church of Oakland, CA.

“We are deeply embedded in both: An Unfurling and an Unraveling. An unfurling of positive, life-giving need for decency, for freedom, for sanity and creativity, for love. An unfurling ... irrepressibly and undeniably rising out of a great human need for wholeness, and even more fundamentally, for the promise that life will continue—that beauty and health will prevail, that the sacredness and majesty of life on this planet, and of the planet itself, will endure.

“And ... we are deeply imbedded in an unraveling ... the great systems of Earth as well as of human society give every indication that they are unraveling, coming apart before our very eyes: the equilibrium that created the living and dynamic structures necessary for human life and human civilization to develop and flourish ... is falling apart.”

We Unitarian Universalists have lauded the leaders among us in the past; please remember to do so to the heroes among us today. I have one incredible set of leaders to celebrate today – the five members of the Planning Team for the UUMFE Ecological Collaboratory that met in Detroit in March. Their talents and experience and vision

created an environment for a dynamic conference that will yield results in a lot of different directions. The Planning Team members were Pamela Sparr, Dr. Mike Hogue, Rev. Dr. Frances Sink, Rev. Kurt Kuhwald, and Dr. Mark Hicks. They did an amazing job of giving us time to acknowledge our ‘unraveled’ feelings and build our sense of ‘unfurling.’ As Kurt



described, we were “... thirty UU leaders who had gathered from all over the US for what we called a Collaboratory. We used the word Collaboratory because we meant to create an active mix of collaboration within relationships with the vital work of a laboratory – all within the context of Ecological/Environmental Justice. Our goal, quite overtly and unabashedly, was to kick-start a process with those leaders that would begin to embed Earth-Justice at the heart, at the very core, of Unitarian Universalism.”

More will be forthcoming as the Collaboratory participants begin the tasks they defined for themselves – all in addition to their regularly scheduled programming and jobs.

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Meanwhile, UUMFE also keeps going with our other programming, described in this newsletter. Check out the information about Curtis Murphy, our Young Adult Climate Justice Intern, the movement to divest from fossil fuels, our Earth Day winner for the UUA Bookstore gift and start planning for the UUA General Assembly in Providence, RI. We hope to see you there – check out Booth 203.

Kudos to those of you who see our sadness and help us acknowledge and move towards hope and action. Hooray for those of you who have your finger in the hole in the dam and those of you who are going about improving all manner of situations. All are in the spirit of General Assembly this year – ‘Love Reaches Out.’

In gratitude, Irene Keim, UUMFE Board Chair ♦

Peace, Justice and Sustainability Are Focus of New Northwest Earth Institute Curriculum

Ellen McClaran, UUMFE Board member

In April, the Northwest Earth Institute (NWEI) introduced a new discussion course, *Seeing Systems: Peace, Justice, and Sustainability*. The overall goal of the six-session curriculum is to connect the dots between three of society’s most pressing challenges and help course participants find pathways

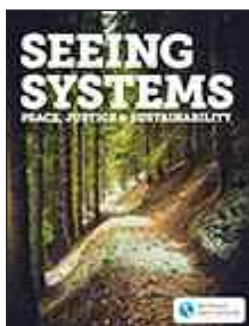
to powerful change in their everyday lives and press for needed institutional changes. Watch a short introductory video for the course here:

<http://vimeo.com/89030991>

As with previous NWEI courses, the format is ideal for use by small affinity and/or covenant groups that

meet on a regular basis. Each session includes several readings, discussion questions, a “Putting It Into Practice” list of suggested actions, and a link to more readings and resources on the NWEI website.

Order this or other courses at <http://nwei.org>. Please choose UU Ministry for Earth in the “affiliation” section of the order form at checkout and NWEI will donate a small percentage of the fees to us. ♦



Highlights From Earth Day 2014

Cindy Davidson, UUMFE Board member



Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth
Earth Day 2013–15: Working Towards Sustainable Communities
Photos (left to right): Flickr/CC: Ludimar, Powers/ff West 2009, Miami: Dade County, FL, Flickr/CC: Conny Templeton, Maine Farmer's Market, kvinkin naim, Salmon Habitat, Whirlfield, Where's the Dressin?

Under the broad theme of “Working Towards Sustainable Communities,” UUMFE developed Earth Day materials addressing waste and consumption, and socially responsible investment and the fossil fuel divestment movement. Those resources, like the ones from earlier years, are only a keystroke or two away, ready for use at any time of the year for your educational and programming needs. Please use them generously and share them widely!

Many congregations registered their Earth Day plans on our website this year, and, once again, we were encouraged by the array of services, events and activities that have since taken place in UU congregations and communities across the country. Be sure to check out our table of Earth Day registrations to learn more about what other congregations have done, and as a source of programming ideas and contacts for the future. Due to a technical glitch on our part, however, not all the registrations entered “took” in our database, and we regret that. I encourage those affected to re-register the information online, as well as those latecomers who have information to share in hindsight!

Here are some highlights from registered congregations that demonstrate our collective creativity in worship and community engagement:

- **Worship services** featuring lessons on Ostara and the spring vernal equinox; the link between the environment and economics; and an Ethical Eating theme, beginning with an altar of fruit and vegetable offerings which was transformed by the youth in their RE classes (encouraged to “Play with Your Food”) and emerged as Social Hour edible arrangements!
- An intergenerational service of music and readings, “Earth Your Wonders Never Cease,” with a cappella women’s chorus and original chants.

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- A service on Earth stewardship, including the acts of writing new Earth stewardship pledges and hanging them on a bare tree.
- A lay-lead service featuring climate change reflections, original songs and modern dance.
- An outdoor worship service, preceded by a pre-service coffee and history of the native plantings on the grounds.
- Guest speakers during services, including Iowa Senator Rob Hogg, speaking on "America's Climate Century."
- A two-hour Sustainable Communities Intergenerational Earth Day, with worship followed by mini-workshops on beginning a garden and seed planting; co-housing models; sustainable transportation options; and a photo-essay on ocean acidification impacts on coral reefs.
- **Dedicated offerings**, including collections for one church's "Green Fund" and for the USC-Canada's Healthy Forest, Healthy Communities project in Honduras.
- **Social hour activities**, including sales of LED bulbs and recycling of CFLs, and tips on water conservation.
- **Special events**, including a lecture on John Muir's 1,000 Mile walk; a presentation about living "off the grid;" a house concert, "Thinking Globally, Acting Locally," with UU musician Jim Scott and James Durst; a film showing and discussion of *Bidder 70*, the story of UU activist Tim DeChristopher; and a waste management workshop, in collaboration with a local organization and nearby university students (an inaugural Earth Day event!)
- **Fairs**, which continue to be popular venue for Earth Day activities and community outreach. Congregations in Omaha, NE, Oak Cliff, TX, and Middlebury, VT hosted booths in their communities' fairs, and another hosted a compost/recycling fair.
- **Hands-on activities**, including planting a vegetable garden to share with the community's food pantry; an intergenerational workday on the grounds and building; and one congregation watching its solar panel installation become a reality!

Congratulations to Comal County Unitarian Universalist Society (CCUUS) of New Braunfels, Texas for winning the drawing open to registered congregations for the \$50 gift certificate to the UUA bookstore! CCUUS is a 70-member pre-pastoral, lay led congregation in "the Hill Country" midway between San Antonio and Austin that earned its Green Sanctuary certification in March 2011. The congregation organized and hosted an Earth Day "Take Care Fair" – a community-wide family event with a variety of activities and entertainment.



Highlights included presentations featuring master gardeners, master naturalists and rain water systems; free potted native plants given to first fifty patron; the collecting of old crayons for recycling; good and crafts made by local artisans; locally grown produce; and even pet adoptions! The event was well received and covered in the local press. What a wonderful model to emulate!

Thank you to those who shared your plans and enthusiasm with us!

To access the complete table of activities registered by your fellow UU congregations, please visit <http://uuministryforearth.org/files/2014-ED-Events-04-23.pdf>. As always, if you have an Earth Day story or photos to share, please send them to us at office@uuministryforearth.org. We would love to feature them on our website or Facebook page! ♦

Sacred Roots, New Shoots: News From Our Young Adult Network

Curtis Murphy, UUMFE Intern and Network Coordinator, UU Young Adults for Climate Justice

The past two months have been full of activity. From April 3-5, I joined 175 youth, young adults and elders in New York City for the annual spring seminar at the Unitarian Universalist United

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Nations Office (UU-UNO). This year's theme was Sacred Roots: Indigenous Rights, Resistance, and Reclamation. The conference was an opportunity to learn and reflect on our continuing colonial heritage, as well as the environmental destruction that accompanies it.

Juanita Cabrera Lopez, from Guatemala, spoke of the struggles faced by indigenous communities in her country against Canadian mining companies, and the partnerships they are developing with young people in the Canadian Tar Sands region. This was a powerful example of the interconnectedness of our different struggles and the power we can create when we share our stories and lift up each other's work.



Sarah Chase, President of the Columbia University Native American Society, spoke of the many reminders of colonialism that are present in everyday life in a city such as New York, and how this can create a hostile environment for an indigenous person. I encountered a powerful example of this on the Sunday afternoon after the seminar, when I went out exploring the city with a group of youth and young adults. Walking along the south side of Central Park, we encountered an enormous statue of Christopher Columbus. Coming on the heels of the conference, I saw the statue as a blatant and jarring reminder of the colonial past and present, and yet there were hundreds of people strolling casually by, probably without a second thought.

Tellingly, the Columbus statue was immediately across the street from Trump Tower, which together formed an all-too-perfect juxtaposition of the dominant forces of colonialism and capitalism that are at the heart of the ongoing destruction of indigenous lands and culture, and ultimately undermining the fabric of life itself.

The seminar ended with the collaborative crafting of a statement to express the learnings from our time together, and our intentions going forward. The draft version of this statement called upon us, among other things, to directly oppose destructive resource extraction projects on indigenous lands, and to unlearn our assumptions of cultural superiority over indigenous people. The statement called on us

to turn to the wisdom of indigenous peoples, and of the earth itself, and begin the healing of our covenant with the planet and all of its peoples.

The second highlight of the spring was a Young Adult Conference in Bellingham, Washington, in the Pacific Northwest. I was welcomed as a guest in that community, and facilitated two workshops on discerning the mission and focus for our young adult climate justice network. All the participants were passionate and insightful, and shared thoughtfully about our role as UU activists, and what we need to be effective in that work. These conversations will form part of the basis for a mission statement for UU Young Adults for Climate Justice, which will include addressing economic issues, engaging in direct action, and leveraging the resources we already have in our communities, all while remaining spiritually grounded in our UU faith.



Curtis (2nd from left) and friends at YA conference.

We are looking forward to General Assembly in Providence, where we will continue and deepen the conversation about our mission, as well as present *Singing for Our Lives*, a workshop on song and social movements, with Tim DeChristopher and folk duo *emma's revolution*. We hope to see you there! ♦

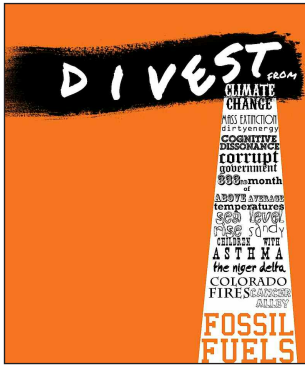
Fossil Fuel Divestment Movement Builds Across Faith Communities

Cindy Davidson, UUMFE Board member

The movement to divest from fossil fuel holdings and reinvest the proceeds in renewable energy holdings and other climate solutions

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continues to gather steam in our own UU denomination and across multiple faiths. As a 2014 GreenFaith Fellow, I've been following developments in their



Divest and Reinvest Now! program and am heartened to see that our liberal faith is among the most actively engaged in campaigns at the congregational and denominational levels. Just this past week, resolutions calling for divestment passed

overwhelmingly in UU congregations in Newburyport, MA, Northampton/Florence, MA, Ames, IA, and Corvallis, OR!

A Business Resolution calling for fossil fuel divestment of the UUA Common Endowment Fund has been admitted to the formal agenda of the 2014 General Assembly, coming up June 25-29 in Providence, RI. The resolution was carefully crafted by a committed group of activists known as UU Divest (formally, Unitarian Universalists for Fossil Fuel Divestment and Sustainable Reinvestment) in collaboration with members of the UUA Committee on Socially Responsible Investing and Investment Committee. It calls upon the UUA to cease purchasing securities of the "Carbon Tracker 200" companies, divest of direct and indirect CT200 holdings over a five-year period, invest in securities that will support a swift transition to a clean energy economy, and allows for the retention of minimum number of CT200 shares sufficient for shareholder advocacy on environmental justice issues or the just transition to clean and renewable energy.

The UUA Board of Trustees endorsed the resolution as written in its April 13th meeting, with the official Board statement forthcoming. UU Ministry for Earth Board and members of UU Young Adults for Climate Justice have both previously issued endorsements.

Onsite and off-site delegates will have the opportunity to vote on the resolution during one of the plenary sessions on Saturday or Sunday, so be sure to check the final agenda and program booklet for complete details. (If you aren't able to attend

General Assembly this year, we encourage you to participate as an off-site delegate.) The mini-assembly has been scheduled for Friday evening, from 5-6:15 pm. UUMFE urges all congregational delegates to support the resolution as it currently stands.

Please be sure to take advantage of these resources and opportunities to become fully informed about the resolution, if you have not yet already done so:

- Find the text of the Business Resolution, an informative Summary and Frequently Asked Questions, and a listing of congregations who have already divested or pledged to do so at UU Divest.
- The UUA Board of Trustees will be including the fossil fuel divestment resolution in their upcoming "What to expect at GA" webinar on June 5th (6-7 pm PDT/9-10 pm EDT). (Click here to access registration portal.) Post-event, look for the recorded webinar on the General Assembly website.
- Comprehensive information and resources about fossil fuel divestment, clean energy investing, and related topics can be found on the UU Ministry for Earth website in our 2014 Earth Day materials on Socially Responsible Investing.
- At General Assembly, be sure to visit the UU Ministry for Earth booth in the exhibit hall, where UU Divest will have materials available and volunteers on hand for conversation. Please contact Terry Wiggins (terry.wiggins50@gmail.com) or Wes Ernsberger (wesernsberger@gmail.com) if you have interest in tabling, and sharing with others what you know about divestment.

We are grateful for the energy, enthusiasm and tenacity of the many UUs who have worked hard to bring forth divestment conversations and resolutions that are both prophetic and actionable. We look forward to "UUA Divests" being a top headline in the press this June!



Special note: there are many live links in the online version of this article. Access the article at:

<http://uuministryforearth.org/fossil-fuel-divestment-and-socially-responsible-investing>. ♦

The Great March for Climate Action – Walking a Mile In Their Shoes

Vince Pawlowski, Mountain Vista UU Congregation, Tucson, AZ, UUMFE Board member

The Great Climate March is an historic cross country effort whose goal “is to change the heart and mind of the American people, our elected leaders and people across the world to act now to address the climate crisis.” If you are like me, you might wonder what could motivate people to take such an act of dedication? To find out I marched



with them. The next question I asked is “How can Unitarian Universalists help?” Hopefully, I can answer both questions, or at least give an inkling into what it is like to walk a mile in their shoes.

I have been following the climate march since last August when a local Tucson climate activist and science teacher, John Jorgensen, introduced me to it. After hiking with John a few times to help him prepare for daily marching, I got to understand that his motivation comes from a lifetime of trying to get people to not only understand science in an intellectual way, but to make scientific observations a part of their daily lives. Relying on the body of peer reviewed knowledge that has been accumulating about climate science, rather than on unqualified media authorities, is a value that we share. John’s practical talents have proven invaluable in keeping the march going.

My literal following of the march began on the second day, March 2, when I joined the marchers in Los Angeles with some friends from Neighborhood UU Church of Pasadena, a wonderful Green Sanctuary congregation with a history of smart, strong action on climate and sustainability issues. Marching in the rain was quite an experience for this long-time desert dweller.

After leaving the march, I wondered what motivated people to give up so much of their lives to walk hours a day for climate action. My own history in the climate

movement includes some fasting and a couple acts of civil disobedience, both considered dramatic and maybe extreme by some. So, I have been searching for what motivates other people to take what some consider courageous, yet thoughtful actions to save us from unmitigated climate disruption. That first experience left me wanting to march more than a mile in their shoes, literally and figuratively.

My next experience came last week, as the march was leaving Albuquerque. We marched along Interstate 25 at a point where there was no access road, just a power line maintenance route. If ever you want to know the truth about someone’s journey, walk the hardest of their path with them. One of my goals in this effort was to find out how our Seven Principles motivated the three Unitarian Universalists on the march to go through such an ordeal.

A long time UU, member of UU Society of Iowa City, and one of the oldest marchers, Miriam Kashia has already been profiled by UUMFE in the Winter newsletter in her article “The Great March: Walking My Talk.” Miriam is keeping her own blog at ‘Miriam Marching’ (<http://miriammarching.blogspot.com>). I spoke with her during both visits. She believes there is nothing more important we can do than to help bring about strong action on climate change. She is quite an adventurer who has spoken to rallies along the march. Maybe you can get a chance to hear her somewhere along the journey.



From the left, Vince with the three UU marchers: Izzy Mogelgaard, Ken Snyder, and Miriam Kashia.

Two other UU climate marchers accompany Miriam – Ken Snyder from the UU Congregation of Shelter Rock, NY, and Izzy Mogelgaard of the Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater, FL. Since meeting them, I have wondered how our UU Seven Principles might be getting integrated into the march. The day before the march entered Arizona, I joined them again to find out.

While marching, I chatted with the UU marchers, asking about their participation. After speaking with

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them and many other marchers, I have come to believe that a strong adherence to values that are common to our Seven Principles and to other liberal traditions is at the core of the beliefs of many of the marchers I have come to know. I look forward to hearing more from Miriam, Izzy and Ken about their journey.



The Great March arrives in Albuquerque on May 10. Image from march Facebook page; see more at: <https://www.facebook.com/ClimateMarch>

Joining the march is certainly one way to help, but not likely for more than one in a million people. There are many ways to help, some depend on whether you are along the Great March route. What if you are not along the route, curious about them, empathetic, and want to help as an individual, or as a congregation? The march needs publicity, financial, logistical, moral, and spiritual support from what we call 'virtual marchers' supporting the march from afar.

For those of you along the route, join the 'Marcher in the Home' program that pairs up marchers with community host families for an evening. Welcoming Congregations know well that engaging in Radical Hospitality includes welcoming the traveler in every way possible. UU writer Rev. Dr. Marilyn J. Sewell reminds us of this in her sermon Radical Hospitality, "Hospital, hospice, hospitable, hospitality—all from the same root word, meaning generous, caring, sustaining." There are many ways to express hospitality.

Along the march, hospitality might include a bed, dinner/breakfast, a shower, laundry facilities, or other direct engagement with a member the Climate March. Not only do these actions provide marchers a much-appreciated break from sleeping on the ground every night, but they provide excellent program outreach opportunities as well. Marchers are available to speak on their experience and motivation to congregations and social action groups near-by the route.

Supporting the march can take many forms. The march website (<http://climatemarch.org>) has more information. The Climate March fundraising site (<https://www.crowdrise.com/ClimateMarch>) has information on donating to the march or to individual marchers.

There is much UU Ministry for Earth members can do to support these intrepid travelers. Joining a cross-country march is a lot to ask most people. There is much more we can do to support the Great March for Climate Action. Talk to your friends about the march, donate, and encourage others to participate. Most importantly, spread the word! We need to let Washington to know we are coming to DC to talk about climate disruption on November first. ♦

Is It War?

Rev. Earl W. Koteen, Berkeley Fellowship of UUs, CA, UUMFE Board member

It's ironic – not in the technical sense – but in the sense of the Alanis Morissette song that I should use an example from the oil industry to make a recommendation about preparing for environmental degradation caused, in part, by that industry.

Prior to the 1973 oil embargo, Shell was the weakest of the "Seven Sisters," the largest oil companies in the world. But Shell had a secret weapon: scenario planning. Scenario planning was not just used by Shell, but also by Nelson Mandela to make the transition to a post-apartheid South Africa.

So what is scenario planning, how did Shell use it, and what were the consequences?



The Seven Sisters, mid-20th century; oilpro.com image.

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Many planning efforts start with the vision of a future, and the development of a plan to achieve it. Scenario planning also starts with a vision, but then goes on to imagine several possible futures or scenarios



and what would be required to achieve the vision in each of them. These scenarios recognize that the future will be influenced by events that we cannot control, but, if we're lucky, we may anticipate.

Shell was the only one of the Seven Sisters that developed a scenario for an oil embargo. When the unlikely, but actual, embargo occurred, Shell was the only oil company prepared for it and it sprang into action. When the dust settled, Shell had moved from the weakest to the second strongest of the Seven Sisters.

When I was a child in the 1950s, we imagined becoming firefighters or police officers when we grew up. As we got older, our career choices became more varied and sophisticated. But, with the exception of thermonuclear war, we imagined the future much like our present. We could develop marketable skills, confident that there would always be a market.

Today's children do not have that luxury. They face increasingly dire and uncertain possible futures.

When I say that things might not just get bad, but really, really bad, I am accused of being a collapsitarian – “Chicken Little” to those of you not embedded in the language of climate change debates. Tired of the arguments, I have given up being a prophet. Think of me more as your insurance agent. I am not saying that civilization will collapse; I'm asking what you will do to prepare your children for survival if it does collapse. Skills of a farmer and or a medic could be lifesaving. Community building and self-sufficiency are already becoming much more important than they once were.

To help people prepare for alternative futures is not pessimism but prudence, a virtue that has not been widely practiced in our culture of late. As Dmitry Orlov has pointed out, to prepare for disaster that never comes is to risk being thought a fool, but to not prepare for a disaster that does arrive is to risk becoming a casualty. And in this multigenerational disaster, the sins of the parents will weigh most heavily upon the children.

Such preparation is a path of joy, purpose, love, and humility. We are not the masters of our fate, but we can be its co-creators. ♦

2014 Courageous Love Award Presented to Westboro 8

From the February 18 press release from First Parish in Cambridge, MA

This morning, First Parish in Cambridge, Unitarian Universalist, presented its fourth annual Courageous Love Award to the Westborough 8.

The Westborough 8 are young climate justice activists who last year committed nonviolent civil disobedience at the office of TransCanada to protest the Keystone XL pipeline. The group sat down in the lobby of the TransCanada corporate offices in Westborough, Massachusetts, and refused to leave. They Super Glued their hands and chained their waists and ankles together. They were arrested and charged with being disorderly persons, disturbing the peace, and trespassing.



*Members of the Westboro 8 receiving their award.
Photo courtesy of First Parish in Cambridge.*

“These young activists are carrying on the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi, Rosa Parks, and Martin Luther King Jr.,” said Senior Minister Rev. Fred Small. “Their courage, creativity, and determination inspire me. But we need to do more than honor them for their climate activism—we need to join them.”

By awarding them the Courageous Love Award, First Parish in Cambridge honored the Westborough 8 for their determination to create a more just and sustainable future. “We stand together,” the young

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activists said in an online statement, “as representatives of a desperate generation who have been forced into this position by the reckless and immoral behavior of fossil fuel corporations such as TransCanada. The Keystone XL pipeline . . . represents an intolerable threat to our future. . . . Today, we add our peaceful civil disobedience to an accelerating tidal wave of actions as people across the nation rise up together.”

The Keystone XL pipeline, which would deliver dirty tar sands oil from Canada to refineries in Texas for global export, has been called “game over for the climate” by former NASA scientist James Hansen.

First Parish in Cambridge a multicultural, spirit-filled, justice-making community

Founded in 1636, First Parish in Cambridge is dedicated to working for justice and building the Beloved Community of Dr. King’s dream. Each year, the congregation celebrates Valentine’s Day Sunday as “Standing on the Side of Love” Sunday. Standing on the Side of Love is the UUA national campaign that calls for respect, inclusion, and compassion for all people. Past recipients of the Courageous Love Award are the Student Immigrant Movement (2011), transgender activist Nancy Nangeroni (2012), and Louis D. Brown Peace Institute founder Tina Chéry (2013). ♦

Book Review – *Feathers: The Evolution of a Natural Miracle* by Thor Hanson

Bob Keim, UU Church in the Pines, Brooksville, FL, former UUMFE Board member

Feathers have been used to soar, attract, and adorn across time. As a conservation biologist working in Washington State, with a long history of studying birds in places such as Central America and Tanzania, Dr. Hanson gives us a sweeping natural history of these remarkable avian adaptations. Using his field experience and wide-ranging research with a touch of humor, Hansen creates a captivating read of these most extraordinary objects.

The book’s writing quality? Consider: “*Field scientists learn about biology through data analysis and long,*

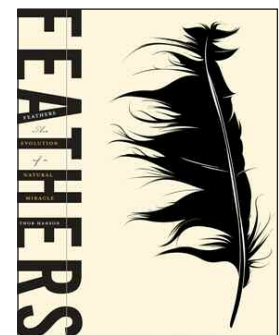
slow hours of measurements, note taking, and other small attentions. And older and more direct route to biological knowledge lies through the stomach. Subsistence hunters gain insights quickly or suffer the immediate consequences. I once sat in a deer blind with a young man whose family had relied on hunting, their quarry changing with the season. As the long, cold hours passed by without a deer, he made sport by naming every bird that flew overhead, recognizing each species by the particular whistling of its wings in the cold morning air. I had binoculars with me and checked the birds as they passed. He was right every time.”

Replete with subtleties of the sometimes-miraculous qualities of this unique component of the avian world, *Feathers* takes us on a journey that does not require being a bird-watcher or ardent member of some chapter of the Audubon Society.

But in doing so, it also charts some of demands being placed on birds, including appetites for bush meat, pets, feathers, fetishes and avian curios. For example, “*In Brazil alone, the illegal wildlife trade brings in an estimated one billion dollars annually, with birds and feather products making up a sizable portion of the pot.*” Moreover, “*Widespread, visible, and with a growing network of ardent observers, birds serve as a living barometer for many larger environmental trends. Monitoring migratory species makes it possible to track habitat loss in their winter or summer habits half a world away, for example, while range shifts and changes in nesting seasons give us immediate insight into the effects of global warming.*”

As the footprints of human activity rows, more and more birds are becoming rare, and even common species appear to be declining.”

Ecological Justice belongs to not just the human community. How we live with birds and the other members of non-human Earth will further define our place in the web of life. Educating ourselves as to the world allows us to make profound changes in how we view and operate with the rest of this world. As *Feathers* proves, regardless of the challenge, it can be a highly enjoyable journey. ♦



UU Church Is First In Chattanooga To Add Solar Panels

From the April 22 press release from UU Church in Chattanooga, TN

It was fitting for Earth Day that the Lightwave Solar trucks pulled into the Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga parking lot loaded with twelve solar panels and the associated installation



Installation of solar panels begins! Photo courtesy of UU Church of Chattanooga

equipment. This is the first church in Chattanooga to install solar panels. The church will be supplying electricity from the sun made with less air and water pollution and thereby reducing their carbon footprint deleterious to health and environment. For the congregation, it's a matter of justice and a moral responsibility for fellow Earth inhabitants now and in the future.

Buck O'Rear, church Vice President of

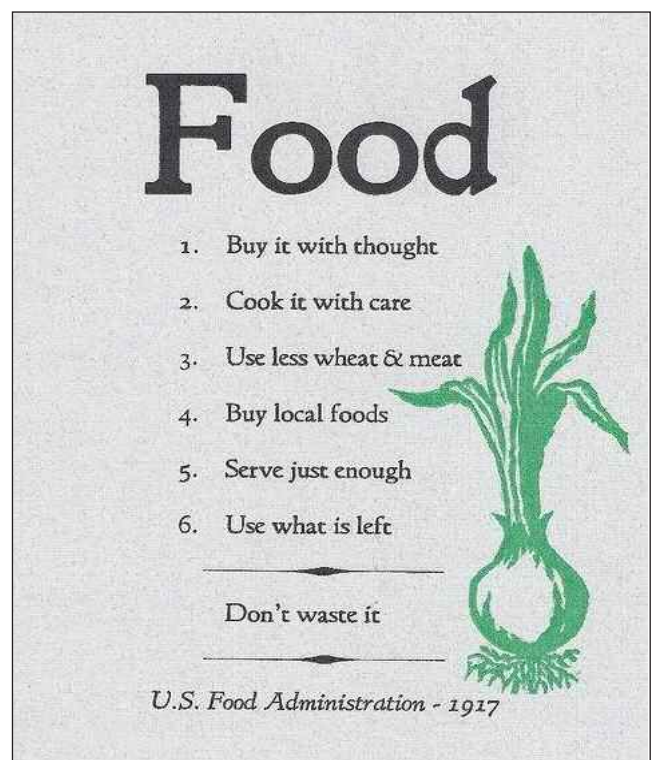
Resources, noted "We have long been a Green Sanctuary and this is another step forward in our efforts to say we care about justice and community."

Together the twelve 250-watt panels will have a 3000-watt capacity. The solar power produced from the church roof will not directly supply the church

electrical needs, but instead will be sent to the EPB/TVA grid for general distribution. TVA will purchase this solar power at \$.04/kilowatt hour.

"These panels will make only a small contribution to planet health, but it's a start, said Sandra Kurtz, Green Sanctuary Initiative Leader, "and we hope other congregations of all faiths will follow suit."

Weather permitting, the panels should be completely installed and operational by the end of the week. Additional solar panels are envisioned in the church's future. ♦



Back to the future!

Your Support Is Needed and Appreciated – Please Consider a Donation

This issue of the UUMFE newsletter highlights exciting projects that depend on you, our members and supporters. Your donations make possible the work towards Earth ministry as an integral part of our Unitarian Universalist experience. Go to www.uuministryforearth.org for donation options, as well as many UUMFE resources, e.g., our revised environmental justice curriculum. Thank you for your generosity.



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