



Congregations Across the Country Will Participate In the 10/10/10 Global Work Party: A Day To Celebrate Climate Solutions

*By Rowan Van Ness, UUMFE Program Associate for Environmental Justice at the UUA,
and Ellen McClaran, UUMFE Board Member*

Bill McKibben and his 350.org crew have done it again. Under their leadership, another global grassroots movement is mobilizing in a new call to action on 10/10/10 that is destined to surpass the success of last fall's event. So, let's get to work!



On Oct. 24, 2009, 350.org's International Day of Climate Action featured 5,200 climate action events in 181 countries. Photographs from the events, all featuring the number "350," were sent to national and worldwide decision-makers, calling upon them to reduce the carbon dioxide in our atmosphere to 350 parts per million (ppm) to prevent the worst effects of climate change. CNN called it "the most widespread day of political action in the planet's history." Over 100 UU congregations registered events on UUMFE's website and many more participated.

Despite the failures of our politicians, resulting in setbacks in Copenhagen and the U.S. Senate, we are not about to give up – it's time for us to get to work! This is the new message from 350.org for its Global Work Party this month, "On 10/10/10, in every corner of the globe, we will bring our communities together to implement solutions to the climate crisis: from solar panels to community gardens, wind turbines to

bike workshops. We'll tell leaders: We're getting to work – what about you?"

On Sunday, Oct. 10, UU Congregations will join thousands of communities around the globe on this important day of action. One week before the Global Work Party, 350.org reports almost 6,000 events registered in 183 countries, with 1,000 events added in just the previous week – breaking last year's records! Currently, almost sixty UU congregations are known to be participating.

Do you have an event planned? Please remember to register your event on the UUMFE website at <http://uuministryforearth.org/Event+Registration> and tell us all about it. Don't worry if you haven't planned something yet – it's not too late. Set up a letter-writing table after church and advocate for climate justice or join up with a local 10/10/10 event. Find more ideas on the UU Ministry for Earth website (<http://www.uuministryforearth.org/10-10-10#What>) or find an existing event at www.350.org.

We are counting on this day of action to inspire our politicians to action. Congress and the Obama administration must support bold climate solutions this year. The Clean Air Act is one tool they already have for reducing our global warming pollution. We need the Administration to support just transitions to economies powered by clean energy at home and globally, and assist vulnerable communities as they prepare for and cope with climate change impacts, recognizing that it is poor *cont'd on page 7*

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make reverence, gratitude,
and care for the living Earth
central to their lives.
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From the Board

“Everything, Everything, Everything Is Holy Now”

At the General Assembly of the UUA in Minneapolis, many of us were introduced to the music of UU singer/songwriter Peter Mayer and now understand why some of his friends and neighbors are so delighted with his skills. The crowds were especially enthusiastic about his composition *Holy Now*, which is quoted above. The song seems so appropriate as I watch the days unfold in our rural central Florida home.

But, the views out my windows this summer were in such contrast to the pictures in the news of the BP oil blowout in the neighboring Gulf of Mexico only a few miles away and the tragic floods in Pakistan and elsewhere. The cheerful birdsong so nearby was background music for my disappointment that our political process has produced so few protections and investments in a healthier future for the birds and my community.

Then our congregation worked through the sermons and actions of Rev. Nate Walker and the congregation at the First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia in their engagement with Monsanto and ethical issues around seed production. We read about the series on the UU Ministry for Earth (UUMFE) website and followed the links to Rev. Walker’s text. These creative UUs have drafted an oath titled ‘Do No Harm’ and are proposing that scientists in corporations and in colleges and universities help refine and then adopt this oath. Reciting and considering the oath lead us back to the song. Just imagine if we and all bioengineering professionals worked from the underlying thought that ‘Everything is Holy now.’

As we plan our participation in the 10/10/10 Global Work Party action from 350.org, we are again looking to the UUMFE website for inspiration from stories of what other congregations have done to support their Earth ministry in the past – for example, Earth Day events. We also check out the stories on the UUMFE facebook page, just in case you have posted an idea or a resource that will help with our programming. We find such value and motivation when plugging into the larger community of UUs who share our vision and act to make it happen.

Thank you. Thank you for your support for the resources that UUMFE makes available that helped us connect with distant UUs and – most importantly – for making ‘Care for Earth’ part of your faith and actions. I am renewing my membership today and will add a bit for the resources our congregation accessed in the past and will look for in the future. I hope you will join me.

In faith,
Irene Keim, UU Ministry for Earth Board Co-Chair

P.S. Did you register with UUMFE for the 10/10/10 Global Work Party and share your story? It is not too late to do just that and help inspire others in the future.

“It used to be a world half there, heaven’s second rate hand-me-down, but I walk it with a reverent air, ‘cause everything is holy now.” —Peter Mayer ♦

General Assembly News

Care For Earth Is Central To General Assembly Experience

By Irene Keim, UUMFE Board Co-Chair

The 3,800 attendees at the UUA General Assembly (GA) in Minneapolis helped achieve the first 'no waste' GA. All waste from the five-day meeting was either diverted to recycling or composting (76 %) or processed at a recovery center into steam and electricity.

This is a long way from the first steps towards implementing Green Meeting strategies at the 2005 GA in Fort Worth, Texas. Those initial steps were the result of a GA attendee survey by UU Ministry for Earth (formerly the Seventh Principle Project) at the 2004 convention. Working with Meeting Strategies Worldwide, the 2005 GA helped foster a first for Fort

Worth – a commercial recycling waste hauling service. Even with recycling emphasis, that meeting generated 13,746 pounds of landfill waste.

In addition to personal practices for the meeting, UUs voted to speak to Care for the Earth through the official public statements.



- **Actions of Immediate Witness** – Against the backdrop of the BP Gulf Oil Disaster and pending energy legislation at the federal level, UUs passed two statements that encourage action to *Clean Up the Clean Energy Bill* and *Gulf Coast Environmental and Economic Justice in 2010*. Both of these statements include actions that all UUs are encouraged to take beyond the current state of legislation or the status of the blown-out oil well. The actions focus on witness, restorative justice, and future planning for economic and environmental repair.
- **Business Resolution** – The *Green Revolution in Religion*, which was proposed by the Ballou Channing District, requires a report to the denomination addressing progress on environmental stewardship and environmental justice when the General Assembly is held in Charlotte, NC next year. Charlotte was the site of the 1993

GA when the Study/Action Issue on Environmental Justice was introduced. The resolution also encourages all congregations to reflect and act, including consideration of working towards Green Sanctuary certification through the UUA.

- **Statement of Conscience (SOC)** – The assembled delegates voted on the final wording for the SOC titled *Creating Peace*. The Calls to Action categories in the SOC include *Creating Peace in Our World, in Our Society, in Our Congregations, in Our Relationships, and within Ourselves*. One action statement supports our work for Care for the Earth:

"We covenant to act in the wider community in reducing the causes of institutional and structural violence by . . . supporting Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth in advocating lifestyles and policies that promote harmony with our natural environment."

In addition, the UU Ministry for Earth board has recommended to the GA Planning Committee it include environmental justice in the 2012 programming, in addition to 'witnessing on immigration, racial, and economic justice,' as called for in the 2010 business resolution *Phoenix General Assembly 2012*.

See <http://www.blogs.uuworld.org/ga> for more details of the above actions. ♦

Lori Sands Named 2010 UUMFE Guardian of the Future

By Claudia Kern, UUMFE Advisor/former Board member

UU Ministry for Earth is pleased to announce the selection of Lori Sands of the Ginger Hill Unitarian Universalist Congregation (GHUUC) of Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania, as the recipient of the annual Guardian of the Future award. The Award was presented at the UUMFE Annual meeting in Minneapolis, MN, at General Assembly in June.

Congregations were asked to nominate someone who:

- inspires new understanding and behavior in others,
- builds environmental justice, within their congregation & community,
- makes care and celebration central to their life,
- has a transformative impact on the congregation and/or wider community. *cont'd on page 4*

General Assembly News

Guardian of the Future . . . from page 3

Although Lori is from a small UU congregation, founded in 2002 with just over thirty members, the selection committee thought she was an inspiring model of how, even on a small scale, a passionate advocate can affect positive change for the future in a way that ripples outward. Lori builds community. With her leadership, the small congregation has partnered with the Macoskey Center for Sustainable Systems Education and Research and the AmeriCorps "E-team" at Slippery Rock University. She also helped establish a community discussion/action group that meets at the church to increase communication, interaction, and support among individuals and groups striving to live and work more sustainably.



Phil Reed, President of the Ohio Meadville District Board, accepts the Guardian of the Future Award on Lori's behalf.

Lori is a founding member (2007) of the Northwest Pennsylvania Growers Cooperative (www.nwpa-growers.org), involving farmers in seven counties. As its president, she helped launch a web-based winter market, restaurant sales and farmer's market participation, and initiated a CSA with fifty subscribers from four counties. GHUUC's building has served as both preparation and pick-up site for the co-op's activities.

The selection committee particularly liked how Lori found a creative way to blend both of the UUA Study Action Issues – Peacemaking (now a Statement of Conscience) and Ethical Eating – with an environmental justice project. Following a congregational discussion series on the UUA Peacemaking SOC, Lori spearheaded efforts to open dialogue with other Slippery Rock churches about the idea of making peace by providing for basic needs, particularly food. The result was the establishment of free Community Dinners hosting nearly 100 people each month. The dinners are prepared and served by volunteers from

But Lori's major passion is envisioning a global system of local foodsheds, built one at a time, "until every local person has access to affordable, local, sustainably-produced food every day."

several local churches and funded by contributions. Lori has encouraged the group to use local food sources whenever possible, making personal donations of her farm's produce to make this happen. And, while she sometimes has to work very hard to hold her tongue when instant mashed potatoes or chicken tenders are on the menu, she continues to patiently set the example and passionately promote the benefits of fresh, nutritious, sustainably-grown food.

Moving further toward building a regional food system and strengthening the local economy, Lori is currently pulling together a group of leaders and creating a proposal for a shared commercial kitchen for use by growers and community members to process foods and value-added food products. The kitchen would be fully inspected and licensed. It would further increase the availability of locally produced foods to local people through storefront sales, a café and community outreach events. Lori's creativity and energy are contagious, as she inspires and involves others in these efforts.

Lori's actions have helped transform the relationship of her small congregation with the larger faith community. Once not welcome to participate in the local Ministerium, a gathering of pastors from "mainstream" community churches, Ginger Hill UU Congregation now regularly hosts the meetings of the dinner committee and works with leaders of other churches. They, in turn, are becoming aware of what Unitarian Universalism is all about, and are beginning to perceive and accept GHUUC as a "church".

This year's seven nominations for the Guardian of the Future Award were all exemplary and deserving of their congregation's accolades. The committee wishes to commend and congratulate:

- Lisa Baker, Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis, CA
- Sally Breen, Allen Avenue UU Church, Portland, ME
- Stacy Gilmore, Green Bay Area UU Fellowship, Green Bay, WI
- Jean Matlack, First Unitarian Church, Rockland, ME
- Mary Sager McFadden, Unitarian Universalist Church of Studio City, CA
- Cat Rigby, First Unitarian Church of Orlando, FL

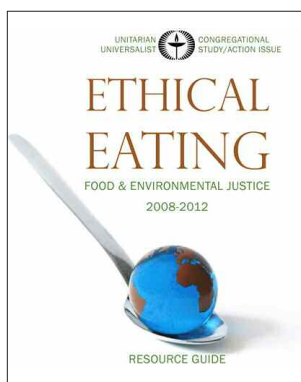
Truly, you are all Guardians of the Future and your accomplishments are inspirational. ♦

General Assembly News

Key Dates for the Congregational Study/Action Issue Ethical Eating: Food and Environmental Justice

By Irene Keim, UUMFE Board Member

Many congregations have been engaged in study and community action thanks to the Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) for 2008-2012, Ethical Eating: Food and Environmental Justice. The process is drawing closer to a final draft of the Statement of Conscience. Once adopted,



this Statement guides the work of the UUA about this issue, so congregational review is critical at this point. The following are the key dates to target for final review.

After hearing from UU congregations through comments last spring

and workshops at the UUA General Assembly in Minneapolis last June, the Committee on Social Witness (CSW) will prepare a draft Statement of Conscience for review and comment.

Nov. 19, 2010. The draft Statement, a comment form, and a ballot will be included in the annual Congregational Poll.

Feb. 1, 2011. All congregational comments and votes are due. In order to be placed on the Final Agenda for the 2011 General Assembly, twenty-five percent of all certified congregations must participate in the ballot vote on the Statement of Conscience, with a majority voting affirmatively. The CSW shall then prepare and place on the Final Agenda a revised draft Statement of Conscience, taking into consideration comments received by the member congregations and districts.

June 22-26, 2011 – General Assembly 2011 in Charlotte, NC. General Assembly delegates consider the Statement of Conscience. It can be amended; overall approval requires a two-thirds vote. The Assembly may also, by a two-thirds vote, refer the Statement for an additional year of study. If adopt-

ed, congregations, districts, and UUA staff carry out a year of implementation.

June 20-24, 2012 - General Assembly 2012 in Phoenix, AZ. If a Statement of Conscience was adopted in the previous year, workshops are held on it. This concludes the Study/Action cycle for Ethical Eating: Food and Environmental Justice.

The online resources provided for the Ethical Eating CSAI may be accessed at <http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/issuesprocess/currentissues/ethicaleating/index.shtml> and in the Earth Day 2010 section of the UUMFE website at http://uuministryforearth.org/earth_day_resources.♦

Karen and Ramón Urbano Honored With Volunteer Service Award

By Ellen McClaran, UUMFE Board Member

At each General Assembly, the President's Annual Award for Volunteer Service to the UUA is given to the person designated by the President as having given extraordinary and vital service to the UUA as a volunteer.

This year's award recipients are Karen Urbano, UUMFE Board member, and her husband Ramón, of Woodland, CA. The couple was recognized for their many years of dedicated service at the local, district, and national level. They recently hosted the UUMFE fall Board meeting at their church, UU Church of Davis. Congratulations Karen and Ramón!

In the photo below, UUA President Peter Morales and his wife Phyllis with Karen and Ramón following the presentation of the award at GA in Minneapolis.♦



Photo by Nancy Pierce

News From UU Ministry For Earth

Matching Grants Fund Three District Environmental Conferences

By Nancy King Smith, UUMFE Board Co-Chair

Three districts – Northern New England, Ohio-Meadville, and St. Lawrence – were selected as recipients of a matching grant (\$500 for each District) that UUMFE received from the UU Funding Program. The Districts administered a survey of the environmental interests and needs of their congregations and are planning fall conferences to address those needs. Individuals and congregations within each District are helping to fund the \$500 match.

The Ohio Meadville District will hold its conference in Youngstown on October 23, focusing on *Green Leadership*. David Orr, well-known environmental author and chair of the Oberlin College's Environmental Studies program, will be the keynote speaker and workshops will focus on building green commitment in congregations and building green partnerships in the community. Details on the conference and registration information can be found at <http://www.ohiomeadville.org/conference/green.html>.

The St. Lawrence District selected *Re-Thinking Social Justice within an Eco-Justice Moral Framework* as the theme of its Fifth Annual Social Justice conference to be held October 30 at May Memorial UU Society in Syracuse. Worship, a keynote address by Rev. Kate Braestrup, and a number of workshops will be offered as part of the day. Information can be found at <http://www.sld.uua.org/>.

The Northern New England District is planning a two-day event November 5 and 6 at Second Congregational Society Unitarian Universalist in Concord, NH. On Friday, an optional pre-conference workshop, *Awakening the Dreamer*, will be offered for those over sixteen years of age. Through dynamic group interactions, leading edge information, and inspiring multimedia, participants of this workshop are inspired to reconnect with their deep concern for our world, and are empowered to make a difference. For more information about the workshop, see <http://awakeningthedreamer.org/content/view/115/135/>.

The multigenerational conference will begin Friday

evening with supper and worship and continue on Saturday with spiritual grounding, sharing of stories and resources, parallel programming for children and adults, and interest/action groups. Meals will be created from locally grown foods made by teams of congregations. More information can be found at <http://nned.uua.org/sustainability.shtml>.

UU Ministry for Earth worked with each District on organizing the survey, raising the matching funds, thinking through the conference design, connecting to other resources, and will have representatives at each of the conferences. The UU Funding Program matching grant can cover one additional district. For more information on the grant, please see http://www.uumfe.org/Support_for_Districts or contact Nancy King Smith at nancykingsmith@mac.com. ♦

Health Is Focus of New Northwest Earth Institute Curriculum

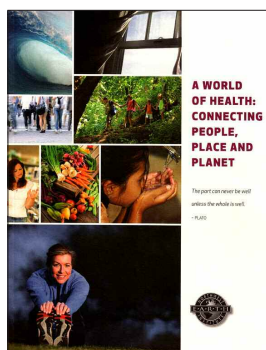
By Ellen McClaran, UUMFE Board Member

Last month, the Northwest Earth Institute (NWEI) introduced a new discussion course, *A World of Health: Connecting People, Place, and Planet*, designed to improve both personal and world health. The overall goal of the six-session curriculum

is to increase awareness of the connections between health and the environment and inspire people to take actions that promote good health for our planet and ourselves.

With the new *A World of Health* curriculum, NWEI aims to provide a wide range of actions participants can take to improve their personal health, and in turn, reduce their ecological footprint. NWEI expects that more than 5,000 people will take the course this year.

If you select UUMFE/Green Sanctuary as your "connection" when you order the discussion guides, NWEI will share some of the profit with UUMFE. ♦



News From UU Ministry For Earth

10/10/10 Global Work Party . . . cont'd from page 1

communities that bear the brunt of environmental destruction, including the harm caused by climate change.

For more information on the grounding for Unitarian Universalists and climate change work, check out our 2006 Statement of Conscience (SOC) on the Threat of Global Warming/Climate Change

(<http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/socialjustice/statements/8061.shtml>) and the 2010 Action of Immediate Witness (AIW) to Clean up the Clean Energy Bill (<http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/socialjustice/statements/169258.shtml>).

We hope you will join us in getting to work for climate justice. See what other UU congregations are doing in the next section. ♦

Earth Day Theme Announced

UMFE has chosen "Sacred Waters: Earth Day as a Spiritual Holiday" as the theme for its 2011 Earth Day packet of resources for congregations. Water is something that connects all people, plants, and animals – it sustains life – and connects us with the whim and will of Mother Nature. From Katrina and the Gulf oil spill to drought in Australia and floods in Pakistan, it is a timely topic. We hope this early announcement will help you to begin planning for your Earth Sunday celebration on Sunday, April 17 or 24 – Earth Day is April 22. ♦



News From Congregations

Congregations Will Offer a Wide Variety of 10/10/10 Work Parties

By Ellen McClaran, UUMFE Board Member

Congregations are gearing up for the 10/10/10 Global Work Party: A Day To Celebrate Climate Solutions and have been extremely creative in their planning. Here are some ideas from across the country to inspire you to action – not only this month but in the future as well. We will be working on climate change solutions for a long time!

UU Church of Davis, CA, is heavily involved in a city-wide effort, a Cool Davis Climate Action Work Day, with numerous volunteer projects such as habitat restoration on Saturday followed by the Cool Davis Festival on Sunday – an "inspirational celebration that shows how low-carbon lifestyle choices lead to a healthy environment, personal well-being, and a thriving community."



Many congregations are focusing on transportation issues. UU Church of Palo Alto, CA, and UU Congregation of Duluth, MN, will have a bike/walk/transit/carpool to church Sunday. UU Fellowship of Redwood City, CA, will celebrate the installation of its

second bike rack, offer workshops, and swap/donate bike gear. The youth of UU Church of Flint, MI, are offering a "Tire Inflation Day" to educate drivers on the climate benefits of correct tire pressure.

Earth-care is central to many congregational projects. Churches who will remove invasive plants and/or plant new trees/understory plants include Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Church in Louisville, KY; Unitarian Society of Hartford, CT; UU Fellowship of Newark, NJ; Emerson UU Church in Houston, TX; First Unitarian of Wilmington, DE; and UU Church in Reston, VA. First Unitarian Church in Cleveland, OH, will prepare the soil for a new permaculture garden within a local community garden and Northwest UU Congregation, Atlanta, GA, will install a rainwater capture system.

Energy issues are high priority for many work parties. UU Congregation of Binghamton, NY, plans to mail a solar panel to the White House and First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, WI, will celebrate the installation of solar panels on its 1895 church. Evergreen UU Fellowship, Marysville, WA, will launch its "350 Bulbs" project to replace that number of incandescents with CFLs. Champlain Valley UU Society in Middlebury, VT, will install insulation between floor joists of two of its buildings. First UU Society of Albany, NY, helped plan the high school Energy Fair planned for 10/10/10. ♦



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Generous Congregations Support the Vision of UUMFE

By Irene Keim, UUMFE Board Co-Chair

A much-appreciated group of UU congregations have chosen to support the vision, purpose and projects of UU Ministry for Earth with special collections, split-the-plate collections, and donations beyond the \$100 Congregation Membership.



UUMFE would like to recognize and thank those congregations who gave these special donations between May 2009 and May 2010.

If your congregation would like to organize a special presentation

and donations, the UUMFE office can provide printed materials for the event. Please send your request or questions to office@uuministryforearth.org.

Honor Congregations:

Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church, Alexandria, VA
Auburn UU Fellowship, Auburn, AL

Accotink UU Church, Burke, VA
UU Church of Davis, CA
First Parish in Framingham, MA
UU Congregation of Frederick, MD
Emerson Unitarian Church, Houston, TX
Bull Run UUs, Manassas, VA
UU Congregation at Shelter Rock, Manhassett, MA
UU Church of Milford, NH
Live Oak UU Fellowship, Oakland, CA
First Unitarian Church, Portland, OR
UU Church in Reston, VA
UU Fellowship of Silver City, NM
UU Congregation of Somerset Hills, Somerville, NJ
UU Fellowship at Stony Brook, NY ♦

Your Support Is Needed and Appreciated

This issue of the UUMFE newsletter highlights exciting projects that depend on you. Your donations and your new or renewed membership make possible the work towards Earth ministry as an integral part of our UU experience. Go to www.uuministryforearth.org for donation and membership options, as well as many UUMFE resources. Thank you for your support.