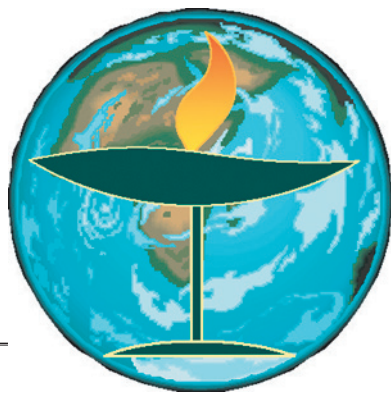


The Seventh Principle Project



Volume 2
Issue 3
Fall/ Holidays
2003

Sponsors of the
Green Sanctuary
Program

Newsletter

Nine New Green Sanctuaries Recognized at General Assembly in Boston this Past Summer!

The General Assembly in Boston afforded the Seventh Principle Project with our second opportunity to celebrate congregations who have completed all steps of the Green Sanctuary Program. Nine congregations were honored for their achievements and officially recognized as Green Sanctuaries and join the five congregations recognized in 2001. Congratulations to:

Allen Ave. UU Church in Portland, ME
Emerson Unitarian Church in Houston, TX
First UU Church of Ann Arbor, MI
First Unitarian Church of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
Granite Peak UU Congregation in Prescott, AZ
Mainline Unitarian Church in Devon, PA
Unitarian Church of Harrisburg, PA
UU Church of Elgin, IL
UU Church of Spokane, WA

In addition to recognizing these new Green Sanctuaries at the Annual Meeting, the Seventh Principle Project certainly left a positive footprint on GA this year! The group sponsored or co-sponsored eight workshops, including two featuring noted environmental speakers, Bill McKibben and Frances Moore Lappe. Our informative and interactive booth was a busy place and many visitors took home information on the Green Sanctuary project. Approximately 700 GA attendees completed our survey on reducing the impact of GA on the environment and gave us a resounding response in favor of greener assemblies in the future. At the board

meeting we welcomed two new board members, Lara Hoke and Craig Scott and noted with appreciation the work of departing board member Dianne Rahm. For more information about our activities at GA, the board meeting and the new board members as well as pictures of the booth.

Environmental Activities of UU Congregations Recognized in the UUWorld.

The March/April 2003 issue of the UUWorld recognized the activities of two congregations involved in the Green Sanctuary program. One of the original Green Sanctuaries Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Upper Valley (UUCUV) in Norwich, VT was recognized for its participation in the Bonnevillie Environmental Foundation Green Tags program. Since initiating the program in 2001 members of the congregation have purchased Green Tags to subsidize and promote the (continued on next page) generation of energy from green sources such as solar and wind power. First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin TX, a Green Sanctuary candidate congregation, was recognized for its efforts in developing a National Wildlife Federation (NWF) certified Backyard Wildlife Habitat. Members participated in training by NWF and have since transformed approximately one-third of their five-acre site into a wildlife habitat.



General Assembly: Boston 2003 In Review!

by Claudia Kern, SPP GA Coordinator

Keynote addresses by Bill McKibben and Frances Moore Lappé were highlights of the Seventh Principle's GA programming this year. McKibben's talk, "Crossing Moral and Environmental Thresholds," elaborated the themes of his new book, "Enough: Staying Human in an Engineered Age" (Henry Holt, NY, 2003). He asked the audience of over two hundred to consider the implications of germ line genetic engineering, exploring how we might benefit from our new scientific understandings while at the same time avoiding the worst consequences of what technology and science are rapidly making possible. Now is the time, McKibben says, to ask: Will we ever decide that we've grown powerful enough? Can we draw a line and say this is enough? "If," he writes in 'Enough', "our nay-saying ability proves strong enough to help limit our desires, and hence our technologies, consciousness may survive into the deep future."

Over three hundred gathered to hear Frances Moore Lappe speak on "Travelling Hope's Edge: Building a Just, Sustainable Planet". Having just published "Hope's Edge" (Putnam, NY, 2003) with her daughter, Anna, Lappe shared stories of their encounters with hope as they travelled the world. She began by saying that we all share this small planet whose fate is in our hands. Do we choose life or do we choose death? Do we choose fear or do we choose hope? If we choose hope, how do we achieve it? Here are Lappe's "Five Hows of Hope":

1. SEE POSSIBILITY. This is possible when we recognize that we are hardwired for cooperation. Our brain activities at times of cooperation are identical to those at times of pleasure.
2. SEE THAT WE ARE MALLEABLE. We need to know that change is possible. To achieve this Lappé recommended a "hope diet" which includes the intentional choice to read uplifting articles, magazines (like YES! Magazine) and books; and to watch inspiring documentary films (have you seen "Winged Migration", yet?)
3. TAKE RISKS. By doing that which we think we cannot do, we bring about changes. We have to dare to ask the big questions, for if we only ask small questions we will only get small answers. We also have to risk being lonely and outside the mainstream, because some won't understand our path.
4. TAKE ACTION. Hope is action. In their travels the Lappés found again and again that the people who face

daily threats are the most hopeful of people. They are taking risks all the time, and they are in action all the time.

5. RETHINK THE MEANING OF FEAR. Fear is pure energy that can be transformed into positive change. We can choose to respond to fear in a new way - to see fear as an emotion which says "act", rather than "flee" - "go" rather than "stop".

In addition to this stellar programming, the Seventh Principle Booth was an outstanding presence among over 200 exhibitors. We had clear, engaging signs and graphics professionally produced by Ron Edins and Peter Houts of UU Church of Harrisburg, PA.

Interactive computer screens, plants, nature photos, tabards identifying Seventh Principle volunteers, and a new, larger booth drew hundreds of people. They gathered to answer our survey on Greening GA (see article), to calculate their environmental footprints, and to learn more about Green Sanctuary and the Seventh Principle Project.



Visitors to the 7PP booth enjoying the various displays and opportunities to learn more about the 7PP and our activities.

From the Editor's Niche:

Sharon Roberts, Newsletter Editor

This summer I attended GA and was pleased at the very positive impact the Seventh Principle Project sponsored workshops and booth had on so many attendees. Many booth visitors looked for their church or fellowship on a large map displaying the current Green Sanctuaries or mentioned that their congregation was considering the program. Yet, when I returned home I was quickly reminded that many UUs will never have the opportunity to attend GA and so this newsletter can serve as an important means of connecting the far-flung UUs working for environmental justice and sustainability. So, we are inaugurating a new column called Green Sanctuary

Project Ideas to share the many successful and innovative activities that our Green Sanctuary and candidate churches are doing. Given the nearness of the holidays we've also included some ideas for alternative gift giving and simplifying the holidays. If you have ideas you'd like to share with other environmentally concerned UUs, please send them to me at robersr@auburn.edu. I'll be looking for your ideas. Happy Holidays!

Green Sanctuary News

by Katherin Jesch, Director of Environmental Ministry

As mentioned on the first page, the Seventh Principle Project recognized nine new Green Sanctuary congregations at GA. With the five congregations recognized in 2001, we now have 14 official Green Sanctuaries and if inquires and Green Sanctuary manual sales are any indication many more are likely to be recognized in the coming years. We are very excited with the progress of our candidate congregations and hopeful that we will be awarding these congregations with Green Sanctuary honors next year. The program is gaining momentum each month, as two new candidates applied in July, and four in August! As of this date, 29 congregations are officially enrolled as candidates, and at least five or six of these are on the verge of completing the program. In addition, we have been working with several others which are preparing to apply for candidacy this fall.

The new edition of the Green Sanctuary manual seems to have struck a chord. The books are flying off the shelf as nearly 75 orders have come pouring in since General Assembly started. Even non-UU churches are finding it useful as a framework for greening their faith. In response to a number of suggestions, this summer we started distributing the manual in a 3-ring binder format that will make it easy to add or replace pages as new information becomes available, either on our website or from other sources. The binder itself is made from recycled materials and is recyclable.

As we build our plans for the coming year, we're hoping to offer a series of Green Sanctuary workshops around the continent again, especially in areas that have not previously had access to the program. Workshops are designed as a forum to gather ideas, answer questions, and build enthusiasm and commitment for the Green Sanctuary work. These events have proven to be a great way to reinforce existing networks or start new ones among congregations to share experiences and ideas, and to encourage each other to accomplish Green Sanctuary goals. Feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss hosting one of these events.

Green Sanctuary Project Ideas

Completing the requirements for Green Sanctuary certification is not a trivial undertaking but requires the enthusiastic leadership of the Green Sanctuary committee in the church of fellowship and the commitment of the entire congregation. Over the last two years, it has been very exciting to see the many clever and innovative projects that the congregations working towards becoming Green Sanctuaries have developed. So, now seemed an appropriate time to initiate a column in this newsletter in which we share some of these projects with others in the Seventh Principle Project. If you are working on Green Sanctuary certification we hope that you might find among these great ideas something useful to you and your congregation. And of course, we hope that you will continue to share your successful projects with us so we can pass them along to other congregations in future issues.

UU SAMPLE ENVIRONMENTAL STARTER PROJECTS

Thanks to Rick North, 7PP Board Member for compiling this initial collection of starter projects.

EAT YOUR VALUES LUNCH
Alexandria, Virginia
Mount Vernon Unitarian Church
Fran McPoland
Fran.mcp@verizon.net

This community-wide event helped us educate ourselves about the environmental, ethical and health-related values of "eating low on the food chain," all while enjoying a tasty, home-cooked meal with friends. The menu was lentil and brown rice soup, vegetarian chili, salad, apple crisp, wheat free corn bread and rye bread.

In the weeks leading up to the lunch, we used the coffee hour to display a poster about eating low on the food chain. We handed out business card-sized flyers on recycled content card stock using the slogan "Vote With Your Fork." Members of the committee who were financially able to contributed the food that they prepared. Others were reimbursed. The event raised \$100.

NATIVE PERENNIAL PLANT LANDSCAPING
Elgin, Illinois
Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin
Mary Alice Masonick
847-931-4363
mamasonick@aol.com



Order of by perennial plants native to your area for planting in the season dictated by your climate. An area in which to plant would be selected and measured to determine the number of plants. To prepare the area to be planted, remove the existing vegetation. To kill the lawn, we cover it with layers of newspapers, held down by mulch, for two months. Some weeds take a full growing season to kill this way.

This can be started with as few as one or two volunteers, although more can help with the actual planting. We got 36 native plant plugs for \$50, with minimal costs for preparing the planting site with newspapers, mulch, and herbicide, if necessary. The program is ongoing, with seed collecting in summer and fall and weeding in summer. This can be done by any size congregation with available outdoor space.

HEALTHY LIVING DINNER SERIES

Kenosha, Wisconsin
Bradford Unitarian Universalist Community Church
Vicky Talbert
262-694-0396
talberts@acronet.net

At this fundraiser we offer a vegetarian lasagna dinner and a speaker. We have been focusing on alternative health topics. The larger community is invited. Next winter we will expand this to environmental issues. Suggestions include "Rain Gardens," growing native plants and an environmental justice speaker.

Planning and carrying out the series of Saturday evening dinners (January, February, March) takes about four people and 30 hours total. Members of the congregation (not necessarily on the Green Sanctuary committee) make the lasagna according to a standard recipe and other members provide bread, salad fixing, etc. The cost to the church and committee is minimal.

PROCUREMENT POLICY FOR FAITH COMMUNITIES

Montreal, Quebec, Canada
Unitarian Church of Montreal, Quebec
Carol Greene
514-426-4170
greenetag@aol.com

We are following some of the suggestions of the excellent "Procurement Policy for Faith Communities," which we ordered from the Center for a New American Dream, 877-68-DREAM, www.newdream.org/faith.

To arrive at our own procurement policy will be a long-

term project, probably lasting over a year. The first step will involve staff members and volunteers to gather data regarding the products we now use for office and cleaning supplies, paper towels, toilet paper, light bulbs, etc., including how much we now use and at what price. Step two will involved researching alternatives. Step three will be using the information we have gathered to put together and adopt our own policy. Step four will involve communicating this policy and findings throughout the congregation, so that individuals can benefit as well.

SIMPLE GIFTS

Auburn, Alabama
Auburn Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Sharon Roberts
334-844-1634
robersr@auburn.edu

As respite from all of the rush of the holidays and emphasis on consumption, we held a service at which the congregation made candy boxes out of old Christmas cards and scrap cardstock, decorating them with stamped designs or markers. In addition to candy, we added a small strip of paper with a holiday greeting to the recipient. The boxes were given to the local food bank for distribution. Oh, and we had a nice morning of cutting, pasting and just plain old fashioned visiting with one another.



DEEP PEACE

Deep peace of the running wave
to you.

Deep peace of the flowing air
to you.

Deep peace of the quiet earth
to you.

Deep peace of the shining stars
to you.

Deep peace of the infinite peace
to you

--adapted from Gaelic
Runes

Share Your Support for the Environment and the Seventh Principle Project and Spread the Word!

Do you feel weighted down by material possessions? Are you dreading the holiday season and shopping for gifts you're never sure your friends and family want? Maybe even dreading what you'll receive and feeling badly because you don't want the items that have been carefully picked out for you? Feeling guilty because it's so much stuff that will sooner or later be in a landfill?

A wonderful solution to these predicaments is Alternative Holiday Gift Giving. Why not make a donation to the Seventh Principle Project in a loved one's name this holiday? Or, ask that they do the same for you. This is a rewarding, useful way to begin to simplify your life, support the environmental work and ecological spirituality of the Seventh Principle Project and spread the word among your family and friends about what you value! Use the "Gift Certificates" created by SPP Board Member Lyn Stangland Cameron or create your own.



10 "GREEN" WAYS TO AVOID GETTING YOUR TINSEL IN A TWIST THIS SEASON!

by Claudia Kern, 7PP Board Member

1. 1/3 of annual garbage is generated by packaging materials. About 4 million tons of that is gift wrap and shopping bags. Choose alternative wrappings like gift bags made from left-over fabric.
2. Reuse ribbon. If every household reused just 2 feet of ribbon each year, the reused portion would form a 38,000-mile bow that would encircle the Earth - a present for all of us!
3. Use more natural wax candles and fewer lights this season and help keep "winter" in Christmas! On average, homes use 27% more lighting in December. If you use outdoor lights, put them on a timer instead of keeping them on all night.
4. Consider sending your holiday letter electronically or send electronic cards. Use the ones received last year to create your own this year - they make great gift tags, too!

5. Give creative non-commercial gifts of time, treasured possessions you want to pass on, a potted cutting from a favorite plant, a jar of your delicious fudge sauce, an album of photos.

6. Spend some time right now with your family thinking about how you might celebrate differently this year using the questions in the "Simplify the Holidays" guide available from the Center for the New American Dream (www.newdream.org). Most families find that many of the things that make the holidays hectic are based on faulty assumptions about the expectations of family and friends.

7. Buy gifts that don't hurt the Earth - products with little packaging and no batteries or electricity required, organic and fair-traded foods, beauty products made from natural ingredients, goods produced locally by local businesses and artisans. Give gifts that will help others. Give books published by Beacon Press.

8. As you receive them, call the toll-free numbers on the backs of excess holiday catalogues and have your name taken off their mailing lists- this time next year you will be amazed at the gift you have given yourself and the Earth!

9. Make time during the holidays to bring your family or friends on a Winter Wonderland Walk. Bring a thermos of hot organic cocoa to share. Or just gather together around the fireplace and play cards.

10. Gather pictures of your loved ones and display them in your kitchen along with photos or magazine pictures of what you love best about our Earth. As you plan and bake and cook, celebrate the abundance of your life.

Walk with Peace, Simplicity, and Gratitude on the Earth

SOLSTICE

Again did the earth shift
Again did the nights grow short,
And the days long.

And the people
of the earth were glad
and celebrated
each in their own ways.

The Interfaith Power and Light Movement

by Lara Hoke, program director for Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light and new SPP board member

There is an interfaith movement across the United States to help congregations and their congregants explore renewable energy options and energy conservation. This is a movement of “energy stewardship”, helping people of faith reduce their environmental footprints both at home and in their houses of worship. Collectively, this is the “Interfaith Power & Light” movement, or the IPL (“ipple”) Movement. The idea behind the IPL Movement is that people of faith have a moral obligation to help the earth and its inhabitants through reducing our use of fossil fuels. In short, the IPL Movement is helping congregations and congregants put their *faith into action* to help the earth.

The IPL Movement has Episcopal origins. In 1994, the Reverend Sally Bingham (of California) and lay leader Steve MacAusland (of Massachusetts) founded Episcopal Power and Light as a religious response to environmental degradation. In a sense, Episcopal Power and Light (EPL) was the Episcopalian version of the UU Seventh Principle Project, but with more of a specific focus on global warming and energy stewardship. EPL had its earliest success in California where more than sixty churches switched from traditional power sources to clean and renewable electricity. Bingham and MacAusland then decided to reach out to other denominations in other states, helping them to start “Interfaith Power and Lights”, planting the seeds for the “IPL movement.”

Each state IPL is its own entity; they are not formally connected with each other, and each has its own approach as well as leadership. States that have IPLs include California, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and others are forming. Some state IPLs focus solely on renewable energy options such as purchasing “green tags” or putting photovoltaic (PV) solar panels on houses of worship and homes; other IPLs also include energy conservation as part of their mission.

In addition to these state-based IPLs, there are some interfaith environmental efforts that do not use “Interfaith Power & Light” in their names, but that are still part of this larger movement. They include: The Interreligious Eco-Justice Network (in Connecticut) and Partners for Environmental Quality (in New Jersey).

Interested in starting or participating in an IPL in your state? E-mail Susan Stephenson, National IPL Coordinator (susans@nextgeneration.org), or Lara Hoke of the SPP Board and Massachusetts IPL

(lhoke@MIPandL.org).

ATTENDEES SAY, “GREEN GENERAL ASSEMBLY”

by Claudia Kern, SPP GA Coordinator and Colin High

With nearly 700 UUs participating in the Seventh Principle’s survey, we were able to take a clear message to the GA Planning Committee and to the General Assembly Office that UUs believe it is important to begin working toward more environmentally-friendly, sustainable conferences. The results of the survey were as follows:

Of our participants who travelled to GA:

- 63 % used a car average miles 528
- 36 % used airlines average miles 3400
- 15 % used a bus average miles 194
- 28 % used a train average miles 170
- 14 % walked or biked

Accommodations

- 39 % stayed at official GA hotels
- 12 % stayed at other hotels
- 12 % stayed at dorms or hostels
- 21 % stayed with friends or family
- 14 % other including home

Green attributes at hotels

- 56 % had linen conservation
- 38 % had shampoo conservation
- 33 % had low flow showers
- 28 % had some recycling

- 10 % stayed at hotels claiming to be “green”

Survey participants indicated that they would take advantage of the following if offered at future GAs:

- 50 % want charter bus service
- 52 % want airline CO2 offsets
- 56 % want car pooling information
- 71 % want a green hotel
- 71 % want organic food options
- 70 % want vegetarian food options

When asked if Greening GA important, 96 % said "Yes"!

Based on these results, the Seventh Principle Project made the following proposals for Greening GA to the GA Planning Committee when they met in September:

- *The Planning Committee make a strong public commitment that reducing the environmental impact of GA is a priority in all future planning and management of GA.
- *That this commitment should be integrated into all aspects of GA planning and be included in management responsibility of professional staff, contractors and service providers.
- *That there be periodic evaluation of our progress towards green objectives.
- *That the committee give financial and policy support to hiring an outside consultant or other specialist to begin immediate implementation.

Representatives of the Seventh Principle Project then arranged for a meeting between Dr. Jan Sneegas, the GA manager and Worldwide Strategies, a green conferencing consulting firm. Following this meeting, the firm was retained to meet with GA staff and submit a proposal for a two-year commitment to greening GA.

When the GA Planning Committee meets in September, the Seventh Principle Project will present a proposal which will include asking for a commitment in principle to a goal of a green GA and recommending that financing be provided for the GA office to hire a green conference planning consultant to work with them. The Seventh Principle will also offer our support and assistance to move this important vision forward. Watch for updates in future newsletters!

THANKSGIVING

For daylight and darkness,
for sunshine and rain,
for the earth and all people,
we offer deep thanksgiving.
We kindle this light in celebration
of the life we share.

--Gary Kowalski

It's Time to Join or Renew your Membership in the Seventh Principle Project

The Earth lives by circles: birth, growth, death, decay, and rebirth. Seventh Principle Project lives also is subject to these annual rhythms. Our fiscal year runs from July through June and so, June marks the beginning of our membership year, with its annual call to renew your membership.

Dues are a major component of our financial health. The Seventh Principle Project is the UUA affiliate group for environmental issues and without your membership we can not continue our work. As the articles in this issue of the newsletter attest, we do alot of good with your dues. Our work runs the gamut from sponsoring a number of exciting workshops, many with invited speakers such as Frances Moore Lappé and Bill McKibben at GA to grassroots support of individual congregations working on environmental issues and becoming Green Sanctuaries. Your membership is important not only for the financial support it provides, but your membership demonstrates your support for our programs when we apply for grants, as we did last Spring when we applied for and received a grant from the Fund for Unitarian Universalism. We need you and we hope you need us! This year we've developed new membership categories and of course, all members receive the newsletter. Your dues are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. So, please take a moment, and join the Seventh Principle Project. If you've joined us in the past, your membership expired in June so we need renewing members to send in their dues now as well. Send your dues along with the membership form on the last page of this newsletter to the address on the form. And, thanks! Now we need to get back to work!

Membership Categories:

Planting the Seed	\$ 25/year
Kindling the Flame	\$ 50
Stepping in the Stream	\$ 100
Putting Down Roots	\$ 250
Soaring Like an Eagle	\$ 500
Thinking Like a Mountain	\$ 1000
Congregational	\$ 100



The Seventh Principle Project Needs You!

Help our organization grow by joining us today! We are a volunteer organization dedicated to affirming and promoting the Seventh Principle: "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.". Please join or renew today by completing the membership form below and sending it along with your check to :

Seventh Principle Project
c/o Katherine Jesch
PO Box 1523
Arlington, VA 22210

Name: _____

Street or PO Box: _____

City: _____

State or Province: _____

Zip or Postal Code: _____

email address: _____

If you have questions regarding the Seventh Principle Project, the Green Sanctuary Program or membership, please contact us at membership@uwaspp.org or contact the office at (703)-920-3615.

✂-----

The Seventh Principle Project
Katherine Jesch
Director of Environmental Ministry
P.O. Box 1523
Arlington, VA 22210

For further information, visit our website
www.uwaspp.org
or call us at (703)-920-3615