

The Seventh Principle Project



Volume 4
Issue 2
Summer
2005

*Sponsors of the
Green Sanctuary
Program*

Newsletter

From Where I Sit!

... Notes from the SPP Chair

Becoming Visible

This year your Board of Directors has been cultivating opportunities to meet and work with the leadership of the UUA in an effort to increase the visibility of our organization. In September we met with the GA Planning Committee proposing a range of possibilities for engaging UUs in the Greening GA process. In November we wrote to UUA President Bill Sinkford issuing a call for greater emphasis on environmental concerns and a greater recognition of Earth as a major source of spiritual grounding for UUs (<http://www.uuaspp.org/files/SinkfordLetter.pdf>).

Subsequently, in March, we had a rewarding two-hour meeting with Rev. Sinkford.

We also met with Susan Leslie, Director for Congregational Advocacy and Witness, and with two staff members of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. In each encounter, we shared the level of concern and the level of activity we observe in UU Congregations. With these staff members, we discussed strategies to increase institutional support, access information and communication resources, and begin working more collaboratively. This outreach effort has made it abundantly clear to us that if we are serious about ministering for Earth, we now need to turn to our members to begin a **grassroots visibility campaign**.

In the 1980s, UUA institutional support and staffing was established for the Welcoming Congregation program for GLBT ministry because concerned UUs have consistently

(continue on page 3)

Join Bill Sinkford In a "Cyber March" on Global Warming

UUA President Bill Sinkford has joined the cyber march against global warming. He writes: "I join this cyber march against global warming, and encourage other Unitarian Universalists to do so, because it is an act of faith to speak out on behalf of our earth. For hundreds of years, our theology has been radically incarnational—we do not understand the Holy to be separate from this life, on this planet, made manifest in concrete acts of caring for one another in our mutual vulnerability. As we sing out praises for the beauty of the earth, we also sing out commitment to protect that beauty."

Sign on as a concerned UU by going to:

<http://www.stopglobalwarming.org>
and click Reverend William Sinkford in the Featured Marchers list.

In this issue:

GA Program schedule	5
Celebrating Green Sanctuaries.	9
SPP Name Change?	6
Regional Coordinators Training Grant	2
New Contact Info for SPP	3

\$7000 UU Program Fund Grant

to support Regional Coordinators effort

Fireworks, please! We have been awarded a \$7,000 grant from the Fund for Unitarian Universalism to recruit and train a cadre of volunteer Regional Coordinators who will enable us to greatly increase our capacity to deliver programming, offer timely Green Sanctuary support, and facilitate collaboration between neighboring congregations in a more locally focused, affordable, and personalized manner.

With funding in place, the Board of Directors now issues an urgent call for candidates to volunteer to serve as Regional Coordinators.

Are you:

- Deeply concerned about the fate of the Earth?
- Wanting deeper involvement in denominational environmental matters?
- Able to make a serious commitment of time and energy?
- Willing to deepen your knowledge and understanding of the vision, work, and programs of the Seventh Principle Project?
- Comfortable with public speaking?
- Able to take initiative and build collaborative endeavors?

The role of Regional Coordinator will allow you to deepen your volunteer commitment to the Seventh Principle Project a little nearer to home. Travel



See I set before you life and prosperity, death and disaster . . . Chose life, then, so that you and your descendants may live . . .

– Deuteronomy 30: 15, 19

subsidies will be available for an initial two-day retreat in Boston November 17-19, 2006 to provide you with the appropriate tools, strategies, and resources to feel confident in your new role. During this training we'll work with you to discern the possible functions of a Regional Coordinator in your metropolitan area or District, and together we'll shape a plan of action appropriate to your skills, interests, and geographic region. In addition to this initial training, all volunteers will receive ongoing support and resources to function effectively.

The work of a Regional Coordinator might include any or all of the following:

- Presenting or organizing workshops and giving talks and sermons on issues related to faith and environment;
- Building regional network of GS congregations to support one another, and mentoring new GS congregations;
- Serving as clearing house for local resources, for example compiling a regional speaker's list of experts for the SAI on global warming;
- Maintaining active contact with your district, insuring SPP presence at every District gathering;
- Helping to identify District contacts for financial and institutional support for SPP activities and programs;
- Publicizing regional GS and SPP activities in District newsletter and elsewhere and promoting SPP membership;
- Participating as SPP representative in local interfaith activities.

This is an incredible opportunity to take the work of our organization to a new level of engagement. We have the money, now we need you! To learn more or to volunteer, please contact us ASAP: at 301-588-0944 or email us at office@uuaspp.org. If you're attending GA, plan to attend an informational meeting on Monday, June 27, from 10:30 to 11:15.

New SPP Contact Information

*The only constant is change.
And change is coming in waves this year.*

For four years, our Director of Ministry, Rev. Katherine Jesch, has performed most of the administrative functions for the Seventh Principle Project, in addition to coordinating the Green Sanctuary and other program activities. With the growth in our programs during the past year, Katherine needs to place more focus in this area, so we are searching for other ways to manage the administrative work. At the same time, Katherine has decided to move from the Washington, D.C., area to settle in Portland, Oregon. While we congratulate her on her decision to return home to that “landscape that feeds her Spirit” as she describes it, her move means that our contact information will change.

Effective immediately, PLEASE NOTE:

New telephone number: 301-588-0944

Thanks to the UU Affordable Housing Corporation in Silver Spring, MD, for dedicating one of their phone lines to us at no charge.

New mailing address:
P.O. Box 11, Lyme, NH 03768

You may begin using this new address right away. Mail is currently being forwarded from the Arlington, Virginia, Post Office, but this tends to be slow, as you know. We appreciate your patience as we make this transition, but if you suspect your message has gone awry, or your order has been waylaid, please don't hesitate to contact us again. We'll straighten it out as quickly as we can.



*My garden's a chapel, but a meadow gone wild in grass
and flower is a cathedral.*

– from *The Common Living Dirt* by Marge Piercy

*We are called to assist the earth,
to heal her wounds
and in the process, heal our own –
indeed, to embrace the whole creation
in all its diversity, beauty, and wonder.*

– Wangari Maathai,
Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech.

From Where I Sit! (Continued from page 1)

demonstrated their passion for these issues. The Washington Office of Advocacy and Witness recently announced its priorities for 2006 as Civil and Religious Liberties, Economic Justice, and Women's Issues because UUs have long spoken out and demanded advocacy on these important issues.

The call for Unitarian Universalism to take seriously its commitment to affirm and promote the interdependent web of all existence is overdue and now must come from you:

- ✓ If you are attending GA, bring your concerns for Earth to every workshop you attend. If you are a delegate, speak from the floor to insure that the decisions being made are congruent with building a sustainable planet.
- ✓ Commit to writing three letters: one to Rev. Bill Sinkford, one to your District representative to the UUA Board of Trustees, and one to your District Executive. Share with them your vision for a UUA which celebrates the unique religious perspective embodied in our seventh principle. Share your concerns. Ask them to be mindful of the need to do the business of the UUA in a way that openly demonstrates UUs' relationship with Earth. Tell them what your congregation's doing!
- ✓ Educate your congregation not just about your Green Sanctuary work, but about the Seventh Principle Project. Download our brochure and newsletter and make copies available.
- ✓ Set a personal goal for yourself to recruit 5 new members this summer, and ask them to write letters, too. A growing membership makes us visible!

Global Warming Survey Results

SPP recently hosted an online survey related to global warming. Of roughly 180 people who completed the survey, a vast majority (84%) believe “global warming is a serious problem and immediate action is necessary even at significant economic costs.” Another 13% said that global warming is occurring and that some action should be taken, but the effects and the need for solutions will be slow and gradual.

One interesting result is that many respondents are willing to put their money where their mouth is. A quarter of the respondents said they would pay \$100 month to cut greenhouse gas emissions; 21% would pay \$50/ month; 22% would pay \$25/ month; and another 25% would pay \$15/ month.

People strongly agree that UUs have an obligation to address the moral and ethical implications of the issue, UUs should speak out about environmental justice issues, and Congress should pass climate change legislation.

One disappointment for SPP board members was that while 78% of the people who responded were aware of The Seventh Principle Project, only 28% were members. Membership is one indicator of grass roots support for our mission, but without strong membership numbers, our claims that UUs are committed to protecting Earth as a matter of faith rings hollow. While some good progress has been made, it’s clear there is more to do. To support the work of SPP, please consider membership and donation – see our website at <http://www.uuaspp.org/sppmembership.html>.

Please note that this survey was non-scientific. For the most part, it was filled out by members and friends of the SPP and others already concerned about the environment, so no inferences should be made about UUs generally. The results are interesting and educational nevertheless. Thanks to everyone who took the time to fill it out.

To Experience the Spirit, Look to the Web!

By Rev. Craig Scott, member of SPP Board of Directors

In Jewish and Christian scripture and tradition, humans are situated in a hierarchical relationship between God on the one hand and nature on the other. “God” created the world and then created humans in God’s image, giving them dominion over the animals and plants. Many Christians and Jews today interpret these teachings to call on humans to practice stewardship over the plants and animals, to be responsible caretakers of the Earth. There is much to value in this worldview. But, it remains a hierarchical view, and it still places humans somehow “below” God and “above” the rest of nature.

Our UU Seventh Principle calls on us to respect “the interdependent web of all existence, of which we are a part.” With just a few words, the 7th Principle makes a statement about an ecological worldview. I believe it goes beyond that, however, to articulate a radical new view of the relationship that connects the Spirit, humans, and nature. As Zen Buddhist poet and teacher, Robert Aitken wrote:

*Watching a spider at work, I vow with all beings
to cherish the web of the universe:*

Touch one point and everything moves!

The interdependent web of all existence describes

a vast network in which humans, plants, animals, and divine energy engage together in an ongoing dance. Rather than seeing “God” as a distant figure who created the world and now runs it from afar – or even as an entity who created the world and now leaves it to run on its own – we envision a form of divine energy that is every bit as much a part of the web of existence as we are.

Language of course is completely inadequate here. For many, the word “God” brings up the image of a bearded, white, judgmental male, somewhere distant from us. Yet many feel the presence of a form of divine energy participating with us in the ongoing act of creation. We must now reach for new metaphors for the awe and wonder we feel at the mystery of this web of existence – “Spirit of Life”; “Divine Energy”; “the Sacred.” Rabbi Michael Lerner uses the term “Power of Healing and Transformation in the universe;” I believe that term works as well as any.

A worldview based on the interdependent web empowers us to find divine energy through relating to other people and our world, especially when we join together to work to protect our planet home.

Touch one point, and everything moves!

Look for us at General Assembly in Fort Worth!

Once again, SPP will sponsor a varied and relevant program at GA. We hope you'll join us for these exciting workshops and presentations. Also, be sure to check out the GA Program Schedule for Earth-related programs sponsored by other groups.

When	Event	Presenter	Description
FRI, 9:45 am Room 202CD	Annual Meeting	Claudia Kern, Rev. Katherine Jesch	Why is reverence for Earth and advocacy for a sustainable future part of our UU faith? How can SPP promote Earth ethics within UUA and your congregation? What does your SPP membership mean? Join us to reflect on SPP's role, following annual business meeting and recognition of new Green Sanctuaries.
FRI, 6:45 pm Room 121C	Green Buildings: Practicing What We Preach	Ann May	Your congregation can minimize impact on the environment with a green building. Learn sustainable design practices and materials that can be incorporated into renovations or new construction. We'll describe the certificate for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) as well as the Seventh Principle Project's Green Sanctuary program.
SAT, 11:30 am Room 203B	Global Warming: Become an effective Environmental Advocate!	Tina Clarke, Clean Water Action	Advocacy works! You and your congregation can create change in public policy locally, statewide, and nationally. Gather proven tips to influence policy on environmental justice issues, learn from actual success stories! Presented by Clean Water Action, one of the nation's most effective grassroots organizations, and the Seventh Principle Project.
SAT, 3:45 pm Room 200	Global Warming 101	Sharon Roberts, Lara Hoke, Jeff Barrie.	How must we respond to mounting evidence that Earth's atmosphere is heating up dramatically? Explore realistic strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation, energy, and food production systems by changing personal and congregational behavior and influencing public and corporate policies. Excerpts from the documentary "Kilowatt Ours" by Jeff Barrie illustrate individual actions.
SAT, 5:16 pm	Forum on Global Warming Study Action Issue	Commission on Social Witness	Provide input to the commission on the first draft on the Study Action Issue: "The Threat of Global Warming and Climate Change: What Should Unitarian Universalists Do About It?"
SUN, 4:45 pm Ballroom B	Healing Earth, Healing Ourselves: Choices for a Sustainable Future"	Duane Elgin	Global warming is one component of today's synergistic environmental, social, and spiritual crises. Duane Elgin articulates the extraordinary opportunities for an "evolutionary leap" to new patterns of living and relationship that are inherent in these challenges. He invites UUs to choose a future that sustains life while deepening our faith.
SUN, 7:15 pm Room 201C	Bringing Ecology into Adult Religious Education	Rev. Craig Scott	Come exchange resources, materials suggestions that will form the basis of a Seventh Principle Project resource manual for adult RE on ecology and spirituality. Have you held classes? Studied important issues? Located useful videos? Taken action? Don't miss this unique opportunity to energize your congregation's Adult RE program.
MON, 8:30 am Room 202CD	Earth-Honoring Worship	Rev. Katherine Jesch	Gather to celebrate the interconnected web of life. Find joy and renewal as we explore the deeper connections to Earth that feed our souls and strengthen our relationships with each other and with all of nature. Come let us worship together inspired by our popular "Honoring Earth" Worship Resource.
MON, 10:30 am Location TBD	GS Regional Coordinators	Claudia Kern, Rev. Katherine Jesch	Informational meeting to explain this new volunteer opportunity to put your faith into action.

*Unitarian Universalist
Ministry for Earth?*

Members to Vote on Name Change at GA

At GA 2004, the membership charged the Board of Directors to recommend a new name for our organization. The Board created a set of parameters requiring that the name:

- Clearly communicate that we are an organization that fosters both spiritual connection with and care of/ responsibility for Earth and all life upon Earth;
- Avoid "environmental", "ecological", "sustainability" or other names that are so common in general usage that meaning has been diluted or co-opted;
- Identify us as Unitarian Universalists in either name or tagline;
- Indicate the object of our concern, i.e. Earth, planet, globe, interdependent web;
- Indicate interdependence/interconnectedness, either overtly or implicitly;
- Be clearly differentiated from our major programming effort, the Green Sanctuary Program.

With these parameters, members and friends were invited last October to submit suggestions for the new name. From over 100 suggested names, the Board voted unanimously to recommend to the membership that our name be changed to

Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth

Changing the name of our organization involves an amendment to the by-laws. Our present by-laws require that amendments be made by a 2/3 vote of the members voting at the annual meeting.

In order to involve the entire membership rather than just those attending the meeting, an advisory mail-in ballot was sent to all current members in late May. Results of this ballot will be reported to attendees at the Annual Meeting on Friday, June 24, so that the wishes of all members can be considered before those present cast their vote.

Several other changes to the by-laws are also being proposed, including a statement of purpose to replace the mission statement, clarification of membership provisions, and clarification of Board structure and responsibilities. For anyone not attending GA, the results of this vote will be posted as soon as possible on our website.

**Now Join SPP and
Order Resources Online!**

Join the Seventh Principle Project, renew your membership, or order resources using our secure online shopping cart! It's as simple as clicking the "Join Now!" or "Order Form". Of course you are still welcome to download the membership or resource order form and send us your check by mail. And, if you prefer, we can now accept your credit card payments by phone: 301-588-0944.

Many, many thanks to our volunteer webmaster, Bob Luoma, whose Herculean efforts have made these services possible. Thanks, Bob!

Green Sanctuary Materials Available

All three of our Green Sanctuary publications are turning out to be best sellers! In the past year, we've sold over 200 GS Manuals, 150 Worship Guides, and over 100 RE guides.

To streamline ordering with our new web capability and to cover increasing costs, we have rounded up and included shipping and handling in the prices. We are now in the process of converting the documents to PDF files so they can be distributed on a CD.

Green Sanctuary Manual **\$25.00**
Describes the steps and provides resources for congregation to live more sustainably and to become a Green Sanctuary. Third ed., 2003. (124 pages)

Earth Honoring Worship **\$30.00**
Sermons, readings, meditations to create Earth-Honoring worship in the UU tradition. First ed., 2004. (152 pages)

Nurturing the Spirit-Nature Connection **\$20.00**
Children's religious education includes an updated supplement for use with the Hands-on Nature curriculum. (Supplement available separately for \$5.00). First ed., 2004. (109 pages)

Ecology-Centered Adult RE **\$10.00**
Premiering at GA 2005, this new resource contains readings and materials on theology and spirituality from major faith traditions, annotated lists of curricula and other resources, syllabus samples, and other materials for workshops, retreats, etc. (about 50 pages)

PLANE TRAVEL AND SUSTAINABLE LIVING: A Few Interesting Facts

By George Plumb

One area of our lives where we could make a fairly significant contribution to reducing our environmental impact with relative ease is to reduce the number of trips that we travel by plane for recreation and business purposes. Plane travel consumes about 8% of all the oil that is used annually for transportation and is expected to rise in the coming decades as more people fly and fly more often.

When jet engine fuel is burned, it releases CO₂ at the rate of about 20 pounds of CO₂ for every gallon of fuel consumed. For the average size jet plane this translates into about 10 ounces of CO₂ per passenger per mile. For example, one 2,000 mile round trip flight from Vermont to Florida for the winter vacation would mean the contribution of 1,250 pounds of CO₂ per person to the atmosphere. Rail travel, on the other hand, produces only about 3 ounces of CO₂ per passenger mile, while autos produce 7.7 ounces per passenger mile.

Many people feel that at least a once a year trip to France, the Bahamas, or some other distant place is an important part of their quality of life. It brings a lot of enjoyment, provides topics for discussion to share with friends and colleagues, and gives one an opportunity to learn about the culture and politics of another country. We also make a lot of plane trips for business and organizational purposes, which contribute to our economy or sense of purpose.

The converse side of this air travel is that in addition to the contribution of global warming, the world is clearly running out of oil. In approximately one hundred years we have used up roughly one half of the world's oil reserves and in the next fifty-to-one hundred years, we will use up the remaining half.

There are two important ethical questions here. One is, do we have some responsibility to use this wonderful gift the earth has given us as prudently as possible so that future generations will have access to it to meet some of their needs? The second is, do we have some responsibility to future generations and to other life forms on this planet to do everything we can to reduce global warming as much as we can? As a parent and grandparent I say emphatically yes to both those questions, and I am willing to keep my plane travel to an absolute minimum.

There are many fun things to do right here in Vermont and in neighboring states, and when I really need a bigger change I am within less than a day's drive

in my fuel-efficient car from exciting Canadian cities and the coast. When it come to business and organizational plane travel, much of that can be done by teleconference and video conference, not only replacing plane travel but saving a tremendous amount of time and money as well.

Yes, some plane travel is necessary, but if I use some moderation today in how I burn oil, that grandchild of mine will hopefully have a better life tomorrow.

George Plumb is active in Green Sanctuary work at First Church, Universalist, in Barre, VT, and is a past board member of the Vermont Earth Institute in whose newsletter this article originally appeared. George says that he has only flown once in his adult life for recreational purpose.

Celebrate A Banner Year for the Green Sanctuaries!

— by Rev. Katherine Jesch

This year has brought us a near doubling of involvement by congregations in the Green Sanctuary Program. We're proud to celebrate the addition of ten new Green Sanctuaries since GA last year, representing congregations both large and small, in all regions of the country. I have also been amazed and heartened (and not a little overwhelmed) with the growth in candidates and explorers.

Last June at our Annual Meeting we claimed 35 congregations as candidates, of which 5 were accredited last year. Twelve more will receive certificates at GA, bringing the 2005 total of accredited congregations to 31. See the side column for a list of all certified Green Sanctuaries. An increase of over half in accredited congregations is truly something to celebrate!

For anyone wanting to discuss the Green Sanctuary program in general or their congregation's situation in particular, I will be available at GA for both scheduled and informal conversations. I'll announce "office hours" at the annual meeting, and will post these hours at the SPP booth in the exhibit hall. For extended conversations, or if the booth schedule doesn't fit with your schedule, I'll be happy to make appointments for other times. I'm looking forward to hearing stories about what's happening in your congregation.

Rising to the Challenge: Living Our Values in the Modern World

Living sustainably challenges us in many ways to be creative, to resist the easy way out, and to struggle through the questions and conflicts to make visible our respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. It helps to hear the stories of congregations living their commitments.

A Popcorn Tree Doesn't Have Thorns...

By Sharon Roberts

However, one particular tallow tree was a thorny issue at the Auburn Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (AUUF) in Auburn Alabama this fall. The popcorn tree (also known as the Chinese tallow tree) gets its name from the abundant clusters of seed pods that it produces which resemble popped corn. A mature popcorn tree graced the kitchen door of AUUF for many years, in the fall shedding large amounts of leaves and seed pods onto the walkway. The tree was planted very close the foundation of the nearly 125-year old building and grew into the service power lines. The litter and proximity to the power lines led to the suggestion that the tree be removed.

After some Fellowship members spoke of their fondness for the tree it was decided that we should explore further its potential for damage to the Sanctuary and learn more about the species. Well, this is when it got thorny and the AUUF discovered that "it isn't easy being green," as Kermit the Frog tells us, and there can be more than one perspective.

The Chinese tallow tree (*Sapium sebiferum*) was introduced into the Southeast nearly two centuries ago. It has proven to be a remarkably invasive exotic plant, identified as one of the Nature Conservancy's Dirty Dozen: America's Least Wanted" list. It is a prodigious seed producer and can spread quickly as the seed pods are spread by birds and waterways. It has disrupted native ecosystems throughout the South, particularly wetlands.

Yet this tree is highly regarded by landscapers. One of our members is a professional urban arborist and she spoke of the species' desirable characteristics in the urban landscape: it is in fact, unlikely to damage foundations, easy to trim around power lines and provides lovely fall color. She noted too that our Fellowship is located near the center of town and given the recent loss of tree cover in Auburn as development proceeds at a rapid rate, we should conserve all the trees we can.

Our tree certainly was not in a wetland, but we are near one of the town's small creeks and an informal survey of the Fellowship grounds revealed about five

small saplings. Yet it had graced our kitchen door long before the AUUF purchased the property and it had welcomed three generations of UUs in Auburn. Who was right? Or, are these all "right" points of view? I don't know.

I do know that the Green Sanctuary Committee decided to vote for removal. Learning what we had about this species we felt we should remove the tree and limit its further contribution to the establishment of tallow trees in Auburn. We hope too that we will soon replace it with a more appropriate native species as part of a new landscaping initiative at the Fellowship.

This tree also provided the first test of our willingness to consider the environmental impact of a Fellowship action. Perhaps, the legacy of this tree will be the awareness it generated in our congregation that environmental issues are not always Black and White or even Green.

Sharon Roberts, is Green Sanctuary Chair at Auburn (AL) UU Fellowship, a GS Candidate.

Where Do We Go From Here?

By Stan Grant

When the congregation of the UU Church of Spokane applied for Green Sanctuary accreditation in May 2003, we also voted to make our long-term goal "waste reduction." During the next year we expanded our commitment to reduce, reuse, and recycle as much as we could locally. We added to our church composting of kitchen waste and church campus yard waste. Our work to keep non-green chemicals out of the building and away from the campus was also enhanced. At the same time we increased our outreach assisting other churches in creating environmental programs, and by sending helpful information to other UU churches on request. Our Green Library also grew with new volumes, magazines, and handout materials.

In 2003, with the assistance of the Spokane Interfaith Council, some of our Green Sanctuary members developed a series of presentations and discussions on Religions and the Environment. The four-program series was presented at Gonzaga

(continued on page 9)

Where do we Go from Here?

(Continued from page 8)

University with speakers representing several Christian denominations along with Jewish, Islam, Buddhist, Hindu, and Native American religious traditions. The programs were well covered by local media, especially by the regional all-faith newspaper The Fig Tree.

In December 2003, we held our first Alternative Gift Fair which raised more than \$5000 for local and regional environmental/social justice organizations. The success of the Fair provided the impetus for us to conduct a Gift Fair each year.

We also determined that having a monthly committee meeting was no longer necessary. Much of our committee business could be conducted by email, so instead we have a guest speaker every other month and committee meetings on call as needed. The speakers are experts in a wide variety of current and relevant topics and draw about 40 persons at each presentation. The exception was in March of this year when we had well-known environmental researcher Alan Durning speak at Spokane City Hall auditorium following our second Sustainability Fair. Mr. Durning and the Fair drew more than 250 persons from our community. (About one-third of the audience was from our UU Church.)

During this year members of our congregation formed a Trash Team that gathers trash monthly along the roads and streets within a mile of the church. They have also adopted two city/county parks from which trash will regularly be picked up. Our church Board of Trustees has also adopted a section of highway to do the same kind of work.

As we began the 2004-05 church year our minister asked that we consider changing our Group name to something other than Green Sanctuary. Many new members and visitors asked regularly what is, or where is, the Green Sanctuary? Though the term was widely used and circulated throughout our church, the name can be very confusing to visitors and new members. After careful and stressful discussions we adopted the name Environmental Stewardship Group.

This past winter our Environmental Stewardship Group became the Environmental Stewardship Ministry. With an ever expanding role in our congregation and in the wider community this new name takes on a very special meaning and obligation of dedication and service. We look ahead to carrying the environmental stewardship message forward and concentrating on the sustainability theme as the new long-term program for

our ministry.

Where do we go from here? With the growth and development of our environmental work since we attained Green Sanctuary status two years ago, we can only say, "There are no limits!"

Stan Grant is on the Communications Team, Environmental Stewardship Ministry at the UU Church of Spokane, a Green Sanctuary since 2003.

WHAT IS A CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP?

Congregational membership is an ongoing expression of the congregation's commitment to the work of the Seventh Principle Project. Many congregations choose to make this contribution through an annual line item in their congregational budget.

When a congregation files for candidacy for Green Sanctuary they are asked to submit an application fee of \$100. SPP considers this as a congregational membership for one year and an acknowledgment of their status as either a certified or candidate Green Sanctuary congregation.

It is very important that individual UUs become individual members even if their congregation holds a congregational membership. We rely especially on our Green Sanctuary congregations to recruit members and to increase our membership numbers. Our goal is to have a minimum of 1% of Unitarian Universalists (a mere 1500) as members of SPP by June 2007.

With this newsletter issue, we are launching a visibility campaign in response to Bill Sinkford's indication to the board that, "we need a better "grounding" in congregational and Associational life before our public voice has a chance to make a difference in the larger culture." Simply put, one of the best ways to demonstrate our grounding is to grow our membership numbers. So, we invite you to launch a membership campaign in your congregation *and* ask your congregation to support a congregational membership. Earth needs both.

Call to Worship (#420) *Singing the Living Tradition*

We are here to abet creation and to witness to it,
to notice each other's beautiful face
and complex nature
so that creation need not play to an empty house.
Come let us worship together.

Accredited
Green Sanctuary Congregations

Certified 2002

First Unitarian Church of Albuquerque, NM
First Unitarian Church, Portland, OR
Unitarian Fellowship of Sarnia and
Port Huron, Ontario, Canada
UU Congregation of the Upper Valley,
Norwich, VT
UU Fellowship of Morristown, NJ

Certified 2003

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

Certified 2004

Unitarian Church of Montpelier, VT
Beverly Unitarian Church, Chicago, IL
Bradford Community Church, UU, Kenosha, WI
UU Fellowship of Sussex County, Newton, NJ
Unitarian Univ Church West, Brookfield, WI
Bull Run Unitarian Universalists, Manassas, VA

Certified 2005

UU Church of Belfast, ME
First UU Church of Austin, TX
Community Church of New York, NY
Unitarian Church of Evanston, IL
Bull Run UUs, Manassas, VA
UU Fellowship of Midland, MI
UU Westside Congregation, Rio Rancho, NM
UU Church of Annapolis, MD
Bay Area UU Church, Houston, TX
Unitarian Church of Montreal, QU, Canada
UU Community Ch of Washington County,
Hillsboro, OR
UU Fellowship of Franklin, NC

**Generosity Overflows
in Support of Spp Goals**

We have been truly blessed this year with the generosity of UUs who are committed to caring for the interdependent web of all existence, and who are able to put their money – and time – where their mouth is!

This year, several have made substantial individual contributions. Our gratitude goes to Ellie Whitney (\$1,000), Rev. Gail Collins-Renedive (\$500), Colin and Mardy High (\$250), and Rev. Terry Ellen (\$250).

Several congregations make their commitments visible with contributions from special plate collections. For the second year, the UU Congregation of Frederick, MD, made a special collection for Earth Day, donating \$737.00 to SPP. Mt. Vernon UU Church in Alexandria, VA, contributed \$933.00, their third annual SPP collection. And last summer, the Unitarian Society of New Haven, CT, donated \$897.00. Thank you to all of these generous congregations.

In a most exciting adventure, the KUUMBA Players at All Souls Church, Unitarian, in Washington, D.C. produced a major theatrical production as a fundraiser for the SPP. The program was co-sponsored by the Seventh Principle Committee, led by Pam Sparr. The intergenerational play called “Save the Humans” was a musical exploration of the ways we understand and misunderstand our relationship to earth's ecology. The acting was fabulous, and the story was funny, educational, and touching.

Local congregations hosted the concession stand for each of the four performances, and all profits were donated to SPP. We are most grateful for the concession gifts by the Green Sanctuary Committees at UU Church of Arlington, VA; Cedar Lane UU Church, and River Road UU Church. Ticket sales were also shared with SPP, and we are thrilled to accept a total contribution of \$2,500 from this fantastic endeavor! We owe a huge debt of gratitude to All Souls and Green Sanctuary communities in the Washington DC area!



Board Recognition, Three New Nominees

By Claudia Kern, Chair

The Seventh Principle Project is privileged to have an exemplary Board of Directors. Each dedicates most of their discretionary time and significant personal financial resources to forging a strong voice for Earth among UUs. I know you join me in expressing appreciation to Lara Hoke, Steve Maier, Ann May, Sharon Roberts, Craig Scott, Kath Schomaker, and Karen Urbano for their deep commitment and service.

Kath Schomaker and Rev. Craig Scott will step down from the Board after the Annual Meeting, and both are assuming new, pivotal roles in our new Regional Coordinators initiative. We're grateful for their years of service and particularly wish to recognize Kath for the tremendous effort of editing the UU Study/Action Resource for the Threat of Global Warming and Craig for producing the new Ecology-Centered Adult RE Resource that will debut at GA this year.

Three new members have agreed to serve on the Board, subject a vote of members at the Annual Meeting. Let them introduce themselves to you:

Barbara Ford, Portland, OR: I was born into the Unitarian faith, raised first at the First Unitarian Church of Dallas, Texas, and later at First Parish in Brewster, MA and Milwaukee, WI. I explored other spiritual avenues as an adult (I call myself a "Buddhist Sympathizer") and returned to the church community only four years ago, in the wake of September 11th.

My time on the Cape really shaped my personal and spiritual connection to nature. I explored woods, ocean, and abandoned cranberry bogs as my playgrounds. Now in Oregon, I'm blessed with abundant opportunities to mindfully experience the interdependent web.

I've worked as a mental health therapist and consultant. In my "other" spare time I do creative art projects, and cook at a local HIV care center. My partner, Maria, and I were recently married in the spate of weddings that occurred last year here in Portland. Despite that, I still voted for the Global Warming study/action issue at GA last year. How much clearer can the denomination get on the issue of gay marriage? And, more to the point, how much clearer could we be on the environment?

I've been involved in my church's 7th Principle group and Social Justice program for the past 3-1/2 years, and chair for the past two years. I've experienced the joy of community working together to honor earth in myriad ways. I'm strongly motivated to support the

hearts and spirits of those working to actualize the vision of environmental justice and Earth healing.

Robert Keim of Brooksville, FL: I am a native Floridian, deeply attached to the land. I grew up in Mulberry. I learned to sense fish "on the wind" from my Grandmother, and to speak to the land from authors such as Barry Lopez and Annie Dillard. I majored in Religion (to teach, not preach) at Florida State University, but have spent the last thirty years developing spatial information systems for Hillsborough County, Florida.

I've been the "volunteer" Chaplain for over 6 years at UU Church In The Pines, in Brooksville. I'm active with several local and national environmental groups. In what the online environmental "magazine" Grist calls "The Death of Environmentalism," I sense great hope and relevance of UU principles. UU Ministry for Earth may be the most important work in which I've ever had the opportunity to be involved. I look forward to the next two years – and beyond.

Terry Wiggins, Kansas City, MO: I lived in California, Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Idaho before landing in Kansas City, Missouri, where I'm an employee and a member of All Souls UU Church. In my work life, I was a medical librarian for 25 years before I came to KC and went to work at the church part-time. After a stint as Membership and Communications Coordinator, I became the Office Administrator. As a member, I focus mainly on Green Sanctuary Committee activities including helping to develop the new local interfaith earth care movement. I strongly endorse our new name: as my minister, Jim Eller (one of the founders of the Seventh Principle Project), said to me upon hearing of the invitation to join the board: "What a great opportunity to further your ministry!"

Contact your Board Members!

Claudia Kern, Chair	Sharon Roberts
Lara Hoke	Craig Scott
Steve Maier	Kath Schomaker
Ann May	Karen Urbano

To reach Board members by e-mail, send a message to **First.Lastname@uuaspp.org** For example: Claudia.Kern@uuaspp.org . You can leave a message for any of the Board members at our central number: 301-588-0944

GA SPOTLIGHT ON GREEN CONGREGATIONS

We're thrilled to have an unprecedented (and hopefully precedent setting) opportunity to showcase the "greening" efforts of congregations across the continent at General Assembly in Ft. Worth this year. At the request of the GA Planning Committee, SPP has been working with our Green Sanctuary certified and candidate congregations to create a short visual presentation highlighting what UU congregations are doing to "green" their congregations. This visual treat will be shown at approximately 3:00 PM on Friday during the GA Plenary Session. Over twenty congregations have submitted an amazing array of photos depicting eco-kitchens, RE scavenger hunts, a wind-powered congregation, vegetable oil bio-diesel cars, making compost, energy generator bikes, planting salt water grasses, and more. If you miss the show at GA, don't worry, we will post it on the web!

And a **HUGE** thank you to Darrell Crutchley of the UU Fellowship of Auburn, AL for creating this presentation for us. In the truest sense, Darrell is helping make our ministry for Earth visible!

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

Membership Categories:

<input type="checkbox"/> Thinking Like a Mountain (\$1,000)	<input type="checkbox"/> Putting Down Roots (\$250)
<input type="checkbox"/> Stepping in the Stream (\$100)	<input type="checkbox"/> Kindling the Flame (\$50)
<input type="checkbox"/> Soaring Like an Eagle (\$500)	<input type="checkbox"/> Planting the Seed (\$35)
<input type="checkbox"/> Congregation (\$100/year minimum)	<input type="checkbox"/> Student/Limited Income (\$20)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

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CONGREGATION _____

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