



# Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth

Formerly the Seventh Principle Project

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## VISIBILITY CAMPAIGN ELICITS \$10,000 GIFT, INSPIRES MEMBERS

UUs across the country are responding with passion and generosity to the campaign launched in October by UU Ministry for Earth to make the environmental commitment and work of Unitarian Universalists and their congregations visible. In October in the largest mailing in the organization's history, UUs who find their spirits grounded in their relationship with the natural world were asked to help build our membership to 1500 members (1% of all UUs) by 2007 and to communicate with the leadership of the Unitarian Universalist Association about the urgent need to make the celebration and care of Earth central to our denomination.

One UU from California, who is deeply concerned about Global Warming and working hard to bring Green Sanctuary certification to his congregation, answered the call to "Think like a Mountain" by responding ten-fold with the largest gift in our organization's history - \$10,000! We are deeply grateful to this donor for his generosity and his commitment to moving our work forward. Every membership we receive of any size signals another UU willing to stand and be counted. Our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you who has already responded to the call.

The letters being written to the UUA in response to this campaign are true gifts of the spirit, both passionate and compelling:

*"We cannot separate our work for environmental health and earth justice from other areas of social justice..... To make my own commitment more visible, and in anticipation of the UUA's heightened commitment, I will increase my husband's and my membership pledge to Ministry for Earth into the next membership category. In addition, I have set a goal to enroll at least five people to become members." Vicky Talbert, Bradford Community Church, Kenosha, WI*

*"I've been an environmentalist since the 1960s when my son began to suffer from chronic bronchitis.....From my personal experience and knowledge, I know that the Earth and all of its inhabitants are suffering. It could already be too late, but being a Unitarian Universalist, I feel I must try to make a difference." Sally Breen, Allen Avenue UU, Portland, ME*

*"We sang last year [at GA], "We are a gentle, angry people". Perhaps it is time to become angry about the degradation and destruction of our environment. We need UUA help to prick our conscience hard enough that we will want to act, and then to teach us how we can be most effective. Sacrifice and extra effort will no doubt be required, but do we really have a choice if we want to live up to our 7<sup>th</sup> principle? Keep us marching..... inspire us to be "on fire" with environmental fervor, and show us what it means to "stand on the side of love" for our one and only earth." Anne Osborne, Westlake, OH*

For more on Visibility Campaign, see page 13

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# Reflections

## Out of Tragedy, a Call to Action

By Rev. Katherine Jesch, Director of Environmental Ministry, UU Ministry for Earth

So many of us struggle with our anger and despair in the wake the multiple severe hurricanes this fall and as our concerns grow that this devastating hurricane season may have been in part a response to rising ocean temperatures triggered by global warming. We should also be proud of our responses to these events. Unitarian Universalists across the country repeatedly demonstrate our compassion for those who are hurting, or neglected, or oppressed. We respond with huge donations of money and time, opening homes to shelter refugees, collecting and packaging relief supplies, and in some cases even traveling to disaster sites to help with relief efforts on the ground.

This response is crucial, and reassuring.

And it's not enough.

We have mightily criticized government agencies for inadequate preparations before the disaster, and inadequate response when people are harmed. But where was our religious voice prior to the disasters? Were we as Unitarian Universalists making the changes we are calling for from our government? Is it right to criticize government for rejecting the Kyoto Protocol while we resist reducing carbon emissions from our own facilities and activities? Is it acceptable to postpone implementation of energy conservation measures and investments in alternative energy because it's too expensive or too much trouble, as the atmosphere heats up, glaciers melt, sea level rises, tundra thaws, weather becomes more volatile, and the poor and powerless pay the price while we continue to enjoy our privileged lifestyle?

The Statement of Conscience on the threat of global warming gives us an unprecedented opportunity to go beyond reaching in our pockets to finance the clean up after disaster strikes. I hope and pray that UUs in every congregation will show a massive response, joining together to craft a strong and effective Statement of Conscience, a statement that commits us to action. This is our opportunity to honor the worth and dignity of *every being* in the interdependent web by making commitments to change the way we do business as individuals, as a community of faith, and as an institution.

As Joanna Macy reminds us, it is a privilege to be able to participate in the self-healing of the Earth. We do this work to make the world a better place for future generations. May it be so.

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## Making Peace with Despair

By Steve Maier, Board Member, UU Ministry for Earth

One of the problems with this work is that it can be very depressing. We yearn for people to have a greater understanding of the dimensions of global warming, for example, yet we know that knowledge can be frightening or even paralyzing. Here's how I began a sermon two years ago entitled, "Beyond Despair:"

*"I have come to believe that the world as we know it will collapse, possibly in my lifetime, almost certainly in my children's. The evidence of human-induced calamities surrounds us. We are at war around the world. We are changing the climate in ways that are unprecedented in human history. Species are being extinguished at rates not seen since the dinosaurs. Our political economic system is dominated by a few rich, private interests at the expense of billions of people who don't have basic food, water, and shelter. If we allow ourselves to really focus, it's hard not to conclude that we're in serious trouble."*

*continued on page 3*



*How should spring bring forth  
a garden on hard stone?  
Become earth, that you may  
grow flowers of many colors.  
For you have been heart-breaking rock.  
Once, for the sake of experiment, be earth!*

Rumi

## Making Peace with Despair *cont'd from page 2*

So, what do we do? I think about this a lot. Two years ago, I wrote about finding hope in the human spirit. I believe humans are inherently good. The greed and the environmental destruction and the war all test my faith, but in my soul, I still believe that humans inherently move toward love and justice and peace. And it's from that deep, spiritual place that my hope emerges.

More recently I attended a panel discussion that included Paul Gorman, the Executive Director of the National Religious Partnership for the Environment, a great organization but one that limits itself to Judeo-Christian faith traditions. Paul was truly inspiring -- smart, passionate, humble, funny, wise, and questioning. After the presentations, I asked about despair. Here are a few notes I wrote down from Paul's response:

- ❖ we need to try to make peace with despair....look it in the eye and come out the other side
- ❖ within despair is a powerful opportunity for truth
- ❖ you have to focus ultimately on just doing what makes sense and let go of the results
- ❖ there is a long and rich history of struggles and despair, others who have gone before us from whom we can learn and be empowered
- ❖ and, despite what seems like a grim future, the environmental movement has made huge strides in just 35 years
- ❖ the antidote to despair is joy (which is not the same as success with various endeavors) and, therefore, the issue for each person becomes how to live a life (and less on how to get things done).

He said later that it is a very complicated moment, right now, for religious life -- a totally new moral moment. Now that science and technology has shown us so many things, we humans are trying anew to figure out our place in the interdependent web of life.



\*Recently Rev. Fred Small, wrote to ask if UUMFE was pronounced, "oomphey, as in having lots of "oomph"! We hope so!"



## STAND AND BE COUNTED

### A Message from the Chair

Dear Friends,

Will Unitarian Universalism boldly commit itself to a sustainable future for all of life on this planet? I believe we hold the answer to this question in our hands.

If this is to happen, we who understand ourselves to be wonderously and inextricably linked to and morally responsible for the fate of Earth must make ourselves seen and heard in unprecedented fashion. I wish I could sit over a cup of tea with each of you and share with you how urgently I believe that we UUs are called to:

### DEMONSTRATE THE DEPTH OF GRASSROOTS COMMITMENT WITH STUNNING MEMBERSHIP GROWTH!

Simply, numbers speak. One month into our visibility campaign, our current paid membership stands at 145. Our goal is 1500 members by 2007, a number which will begin to signal the depth of UU commitment to living reverently and responsibly to our denomination and to the world. Each of us has to add our name to the membership list and actively recruit new members as well.

### TELL OUR STORIES LOUD AND CLEAR.

Thousands of UUs are working in their communities and their congregations on global warming, toxics, green building, energy efficiency and much, much more. Tell us your story, and UUMFE will make your earth-sustaining work highly visible on our website, in our newsletters and e-updates, within your region, and at General Assembly. Then your job is to personally share your call to this work in a letter to UUA President Bill Sinkford and the Board of Trustees. For more details see:

<http://www.uuministryforearth.org/uumfecall.html>

or call the UUMFE office, 301-588-0944.

### INSURE RECORD-BREAKING PARTICIPATION ON "THE THREAT OF GLOBAL WARMING".

Record numbers of comments and informed delegates to vote upon the draft Statement of Conscience are essential. The consequences of global warming and the human endeavor to mitigate those now-unavoidable consequences will change the meaning of what it is to be human on this planet. No Study/Action issue has ever so urgently demanded our full participation.

**I hope one day we will share that cup of tea together, in the meantime, WILL YOU STAND WITH ME AND BE COUNTED?** Together, we can build a new Unitarian Universalist legacy for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Claudia Kern, Chair

# ADDRESSING GLOBAL WARMING

*The Draft Statement of Conscience on the Threat of Global Warming is now open to comment. You can download the comment form at <http://www.uua.org/csw/Resources.htm>. This issue is the most critical of this new-dawning century. UU Ministry for Earth believes it is vital that Unitarian Universalists articulate a powerful religious response arising out of our commitment to “affirm and respect the interdependent web of which we are part.” On the next pages you will find inspiring examples of how seriously UUs regard the threat of global warming and what they are doing to address it.*

## THE COALITION FOR CLIMATE CHANGE STUDY AND ACTION

*By Chad Tolman, member  
UUMFE Global Warming Working Group*

Partly as a result of the GA’s adoption of the *Threat of Global Warming* as the Study and Action issue for 2004-2006, a group of us formed the **Coalition for Climate Change Study and Action (C3SA)** in November 2004 at the First Unitarian Church (First U) in Wilmington, Delaware. The group is interdenominational, with some members from the United Church of Christ and the Presbyterian Church. Both denominations have urged their member congregations to become involved in the global warming issue—though most C3SA members are from First U and the nearby Mill Creek and Newark UU churches. The group meets once a month, and normally devotes part of each meeting to study and part to action.

The actions we have taken include: giving sermons and talks at various churches and public places, including a public high school and a community college; getting articles and letters-to-the-editor published in local papers; selling compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) after church at First U and the United Church of Christ in Newark, DE, selling CFLs at prices lower than those in local stores; collecting signatures on a petition to DE state legislators, asking them to support energy efficiency and renewable energy; and lobbying members of the Delaware House to vote for a Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard, which passed both houses this year. Some of us testified at a hearing of a Blue Ribbon Panel appointed by the Governor of NJ to consider offshore wind power in the Garden State; we were joined by members of the UU Congregation of the South Jersey Shore, where I had given a sermon earlier, titled, **The Morality of Global Climate Change**. Jon Luoma heard the sermon and wrote an article based on it for the May/June issue of UU World. I have now given the sermon at eight UU churches in NJ, PA, DE, MD and NH. Seventeen people recently expressed interest in joining an S&A group at the UU Fellowship at Easton, MD; 29 expressed an interest in joining one at the UU Congregation of Milford, NH.

We have developed a list of references to good sources of information about global warming and its impacts, and I write a monthly electronic newsletter,



**Climate Change News**, which goes beyond our C3SA group to about 400 subscribers across the country; both will be posted on the UU Ministry of Earth web site. When I give talks, I ask members of the audience to sign up if they would like to receive the reference list or the newsletter, or join an S&A group.

Our latest project, by a group calling itself **Citizens Alarmed about Global Warming (CAGW)**, has representatives from C3SA, the Sierra Club, the Delaware Nature Society (an affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation), the University of Delaware, the Delaware Academy of Science, and the League of Women Voters. Our mission is to convince leaders of the major political parties, beginning with our congressional delegates, to develop policies on energy and climate change and to debate them publicly in coming congressional and presidential elections. Energy and climate are too important to be ignored, as they have been in past elections.

**MANY CONGREGATIONS ARE SEEKING  
SPEAKERS ON GLOBAL WARMING.**

**PLEASE SHARE  
YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR A UU SPEAKERS LIST, ASAP.**

Email: [office@uuministryforearth.org](mailto:office@uuministryforearth.org)

# UU Churches Turning To Green Power

There's no green glow as you drive past the **Unitarian Universalist Church West in Brookfield, WI** this fall, but perhaps there should be. As of October 9th they became the first Church in southeastern Wisconsin to begin purchasing 100% "green power" from WE Energies "Energy for Tomorrow" renewable energy program.

In 2004 the church became accredited as a "Green Sanctuary" congregation because of a demonstrated commitment to earth care education and environmental action in worship, child and adult programming, and in the wider community. "Purchasing 'green' power is just another step toward making our Church a model of sustainable living and spiritual connectedness to the earth," says Amy Taivalkoski, Chair of the church's Green Sanctuary Committee. "We call it putting your money behind your principles. Our members feel good that when a light goes on here, or a refrigerator door is opened, that no fossil fuels will be used and no greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere."

A four-year church lighting efficiency program preceded the decision to purchase electric power generated by renewable sources. The efficiency gain from that program is now estimated to amount to \$550 per year.

"The church may look no different, but you can feel the earth-honoring energy of this congregation in every room and see it in every face," says UU Church West minister, Rev. Suzelle Lynch.

Moving eastward, the **Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst, NY**, has become the first church in New York state to purchase 100% wind energy for its church buildings. Amherst recently established a task force to examine energy conservation opportunities within its buildings. A detailed energy audit was prepared, after each church building was carefully studied. Additionally, a special "Green Fund" was established to finance the purchase of 100% wind energy for the church. It costs two cents more per kilowatt hour to purchase wind energy than to purchase conventional power.

"I am proud to be a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst as we act to improve the environment and promote a better energy future for us all", said congregation member Walter Simpson. "In light of the threat of global warming and climate change, we all need to take steps now to kick the fossil fuel habit – and I think religious organizations need to step up to the plate and demonstrate leadership," Simpson added.

"We hope that our decision to buy wind energy will motivate other Western New York religious congregations and organizations to join us in this endeavor," said congregation chair Gemma Lanthier. "We stand by ready to share our energy audit with other congregations and to assist in other ways. We are also hopeful that our example will encourage other Unitarian Universalist congregations across the state, region, and nation to take action for clean energy."



## A BRIGHT IDEA

### 3-2-1 Pledge Initiative

*by Don and Mary Kane, Mainline Unitarian, Devon, PA*

Energy costs are exploding. Low income families suffer first and most. What can we do? The Main Line Unitarian Church (MLUC), a Green Sanctuary in Devon, PA, began a "Bright Idea" program as one answer to the problem.

"Bright Idea" donates compact fluorescent bulbs (CFL) to low-income homes and families in a Philadelphia inner city area. Many of these homes have difficulty meeting the costs of heating and lighting. CFL bulb donations provide a way for social action projects to give to poor communities. There are many advantages in taking this approach.

First, the gift of a bulb for \$2 or \$3 returns about 30 times that amount to the recipient over the life of the bulb, and this money stays in the community. Second, the bulbs use about 75% less energy. Energy savings for the entire community are appreciable. PA is one of the most polluted states. Reduction in energy usage reduces associated pollution significantly. Third, the bulbs need replacing ten times less frequently than incandescent bulbs saving on routine maintenance and time. This is especially important for less able members of the community. "The Bright Idea" thus reduces cost, energy and pollution and helps the less able in places where it counts the most.

In addition we have launched the program at MLUC with a "3-2-1 Bright Idea Pledge Drive" where participants agree to:

- install 3 CFLs in their own home;
- adjust their thermostat 2° summer & winter and;
- go 1 mile below the speed limit on highways.

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## A Bright Idea

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With pledges and sales of bulbs and bumper stickers (“Going Slower..Saving Ga\$.Think Again Before You Pass”), the ECO Task Force is raising money for “Bright Idea” and getting the church community involved. Another critical component was finding community leaders with ties to homes in the target communities that agreed to partner in education/tracking initiatives and placement of bulbs in each of the homes. Concurrent actions in fund raising, community meetings, and bulb research enabled “Bright Idea” to be turned on quickly.

Within two months from inception, our group generated the communication materials (flyers, powerpoint presentations, demonstrations, banners etc), sold 600 bulbs to church members, raised more than \$1100 in donations, secured additional funding for continuation of the project into 2006, signed up about 12% of church families to the 3-2-1 pledge and began placement of bulbs in target communities. Lifetime savings for bulbs placed to date \$53700; emissions saved 550,000 lbs. of CO2

The aim is to place 2500 bulbs in church homes and target communities in North Philadelphia within 1 year.

In early December, MLUC members are taking part in a Harrisburg, PA, “Energy Cost Reduction Workshop” aimed at churches of all faiths located nearby. MLUC’s goal is to spread the “Bright Idea, 3-2-1 Pledge” idea to other cities and towns through a church network. Think of the impact potential this promises!

### Join Bill Sinkford

[http://www.stopglobalwarming.org/campaigns/sgw/bio/reverend\\_sinkford/](http://www.stopglobalwarming.org/campaigns/sgw/bio/reverend_sinkford/)

## CONGREGATIONAL CHECK LIST GLOBAL WARMING ACTION

1. Ascertain your congregation’s policy on submitting comments on the draft statement of conscience.
2. Prepare and distribute copies of the Commission on Social Witness’s draft Statement of Conscience (SOC) ([www.uua.org/csw](http://www.uua.org/csw))
3. Prepare and distribute copies of the UUMFE response to the draft SOC.
4. Organize one or more informational gatherings. Check the UUMFE website for an updated list of current “best” articles, films, and, possibly, for a speaker in your region.
5. Gather input from your congregation.
6. Prepare and submit your congregation’s comments no later than March 1 (postmarked Feb. 24 , submitted online, or faxed).
7. Insure that your congregation has delegates who are well-informed on the SOC and prepared to participate in the amendment process at GA and to speak from the plenary floor.
8. Sign on to the Global Warming list serv for current information, ideas from other congregations and late-breaking news:  
<http://lists.uua.org/mailman/listinfo/globalwarming>

## BRINGING YOUR GOOD WORK TO LIGHT:

### An Example, UU Church of Sarasota

*By Claudia Kern, Chair, UU Ministry for Earth*

As I speak and meet with Green UUs across the country, I am often stunned by the energy and level of Earth-focused activity that is quietly going on in hundreds of congregations. There is deep hope and, indeed, excitement in all that you are doing. An important part of the UUMFE visibility campaign is to share that hope and excitement by bringing to light the talents, creativity, and deep passion that are growing in UU congregations.

I cannot urge you strongly enough to share what you are doing. If you or someone in your congregation has put together a unique presentation, workshop, or talk, please let us know. What you have done may be just the spark another needs. As an example, read on to be inspired by the happenings at the UU Church of Sarasota, Florida led by their Green Team.

For Earth Day, 2005, in collaboration with minister Don Beaudreault for an intergenerational service, Green Team member, Lea Hall, created “Not in My Back Yard,” a story, PowerPoint show, and dance lesson for the whole congregation. The dance, NIMBY, was choreographed to reinforce the idea that the whole earth is our back yard. Subsequent to this service the Green Team created an Earth Trilogy of worship services this summer which they described in an overview presented on the first Sunday as follows:

*“Today we, the Green Team, bring you the Earth Trilogy. Inspired by classical Greek philosophy, informed by the latest environmental science, integrated by our continuing quest for an ethical and beautiful life, we focus in turn on The True, The Beautiful, and The Good. In this way we call upon the objective truth, as revealed by science; the subjective truth, as expressed by art; and the intersubjective truth, as negotiated by morality.*

*continued on page 8*

# Kentucky Church Adopts Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Policies

By Sandy Rippetoe, MA, RD, LD,  
Co-Chair, Environmental Task Force  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Lexington, Kentucky

Exposure to pesticides, both insecticides and herbicides/lawn chemicals, has been associated with negative effects on health. Some groups in particular are more vulnerable for adverse reactions including infants, children, pregnant women, persons with asthma or respiratory disease, and persons with chemical sensitivities. Is there a way to manage both indoor and outdoor pests effectively while minimizing pesticide exposure in these sensitive populations? Yes, IPM!

Integrated Pest Management or IPM is a decision making process with the goal of preventing and controlling both indoor and outdoor pests (including weeds) in ways that reduce health and environmental risks. This environmentally sound process of pest suppression includes:

- Non chemical prevention of pest populations using sanitation, exclusion, and structural repairs.
- Monitoring for pests using sticky traps, visual inspections, and staff interviews.
- Application of non-toxic or least toxic methods and products (such as non-volatile gel or paste insect baits) only as needed for verified pest problems.
- Precision targeting of pesticides to areas not contacted by or accessible to children or adults.

IPM is *not* a program of regularly scheduled pesticide applications, in the absence of monitoring for and identification of pests, such as a routine monthly indoor baseboard spraying of a facility. By reducing food, water, and shelter for pests and limiting pest access into and through buildings, a good IPM program can eliminate the unnecessary application of synthetic, volatile pesticides.

Children face relatively higher risks from pesticide exposure than adults exposed at the same levels. In order to protect children from exposure to pesticides, 33 states have adopted pesticide acts and regulations regarding the use of pesticides in schools and day care facilities ([beyondpesticides.org/schools/schoolpolicies/index.htm](http://beyondpesticides.org/schools/schoolpolicies/index.htm)). Among those 33 states is Kentucky that passed legislation in 2002 requiring the implementation of IPM programs in schools and day cares. The following year an IPM Task Force was formed at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Lexington, KY with the goal of writing a churchwide IPM policy. This policy was eventually approved by the Board of Directors and by congregational vote. A copy of this policy will be posted on the UU Ministry for Earth website at:

<http://www.uuministryforearth.org/files/pestmanagement.pdf>.

For more information on Integrated Pest Management and alternatives to conventional insecticides and herbicides please visit the following websites:

- [www.beyondpesticides.org](http://www.beyondpesticides.org)
- [www.ipminstitute.org](http://www.ipminstitute.org)
- [www.epa.gov/pesticides/ipm/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/ipm/index.htm)
- [www.ipmcenters.org/ipmsymposium/](http://www.ipmcenters.org/ipmsymposium/)

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## UU Environmental Justice at DC Green Festival

By Ed Butterworth, Executive Board Member, UUSJ

On September 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice ([www.uusj.org](http://www.uusj.org)) and UU Ministry for Earth (MFE) members had fun offering the 17,000 visitors to the Washington DC Green Festival (<http://www.greenfestivals.com/>) opportunities to learn about UU environmental and social justice practices. The Green Festival gathers 250 speakers and entertainers plus 350 exhibitor organizations representing green businesses and non-profits that offer tools for a greener lifestyle. UUSJ Executive Director Rev. Terry Ellen's folksy style set the standard for our first ecumenical interactions with a public that wants to hear what we have to say about the environment.

Rev. Cynthia Snavely, UUSJ Administrative Director, suggested that the UUSJ Global Warming Task Force participate in the festival. UU Ministry for Earth's Rev. Katherine Jesch helped UUSJ start the taskforce earlier this year to address the impacts of climate change in the Chesapeake Bay watershed area. In preparing for the Festival, we realigned our focus toward our Environmental and Social Justice message. At the show, we learned about green products, organic foods, fair trade programs, environmental non-profits, specialized global education institutions, eco-travel, sustainable energy, environmental geography publishers, building supplies, conservation, community housing strategies, recycling, fashion and arts, careers, media, technology, health, home and garden practices, and socially responsible investing.

Representing 22 UUSJ congregations and affiliates, we were the only faith-based organization participating. We discovered most visitors and participants were familiar with our faith and many were UU. We met people from places like Texas, Arizona, the Mid-West, and New England who are active leaders of UU congregations. In addition to introducing interested environmentalists not affiliated with organized religion to our faith, we established new acquaintances with both secular and non-secular organizations with whom we expect to partner in future social and environmental justices projects. The Green Festival organizers invited us to organize some presentations next year.

# Finding the Core : Using Small Group Ministry

By Peter Bowden

Last year I asked a couple thousand people in a few hundred of our congregations to reflect on their relationship to the Earth. They gathered in small groups, lit a chalice, updated each other on the state of their lives, then tackled the following four questions:

1. **How do you conceptually think of the planet Earth and your relationship with it?**
2. **In what way is this view related to your personal spirituality, beliefs, the Unitarian Universalist principles, and how you live your life?**
3. **What aspects of your lifestyle, habits and consumption positively or negatively impact the Earth?**
4. **Who do you feel is ultimately responsible for caring for the Earth and the ecosystem of which we are a part?**

How did people across our association come to reflect on these questions? Simple. We put global warming in a Small Group Ministry session!

I believe that many congregations are not engaged with our General Assembly's social action process because we have failed to connect people with the spiritual and religious questions underlying the issues we want them to take action on.

In response, working in collaboration with the UUA Washington Office, last year I developed a session on global warming called "Hotel Earth". In this session I suggested that if Earth was run like a hotel, we'd each be asked for a credit card at birth and charged damages for any harm caused during our stay. Obviously Earth is not a hotel. So how do you view it? How does that relate to how you live your life and your responsibility for the health of our planet? These issues are religious issues. When we help people identify with these core issues and provide dedicated time to explore them, we facilitate a process of connecting spiritually with what may seem at times like a distant or abstract concept.

For any issue our Association chooses to explore as part of our social action efforts, I believe we can identify its core - the spiritual questions at its heart - and bring these to our congregations for reflection. After the "Hotel Earth" session was published hundreds of ministers and small group leaders downloaded it. The response? The session brought the issue of global warming to entire Small Group Ministry programs, not just groups focused on environmental issues. One person wrote saying it connected him with a theological issue he had "written off" as political. After sharing a personal belief that we are each equally responsible for the care of the Earth one reluctant group member felt that she was obligated to take action. She asked that the group find a way to act together. When we help people connect environmental issues with their personal beliefs, values and lifestyles we help them find the inner motivation and strength to take action.

*Editors Note: **Hotel Earth** can be found at:*  
[http://www.uuministryforearth.org/globalwarming/HotelEarth\\_GlobalWarming.pdf](http://www.uuministryforearth.org/globalwarming/HotelEarth_GlobalWarming.pdf)

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**UU Church of Sarasota** *continued from page 6*

*Because of the politically engineered confusion peculiar to America regarding global warming and climate change, we begin with The True. What is the truth about global warming? And, once we understand that truth, how can we bear to live with it, eyes wide open? Environmental despair often follows on the heels of these truths, and we confront this spiritual problem in Part 1, "Of Chickens and Dragons and Falling Skies: An Ecosermon,"*

*The next natural response to The Truth about climate change is to consider: what do we love? What do we cherish enough to save? What on earth do we find movingly beautiful? Part 2 celebrates "The Beauty of the Earth" with a multimedia and musical presentation by Green Team member, Ellen Cone, that reflect on nature, our ultimate life source.*

*continued on page 11*



## **GA Leaves A Green Legacy in Texas**

In the Fall of 2004, UU Ministry for Earth (then the Seventh Principle Project) submitted a proposal to the GA Planning Committee (GAPC) to make General Assemblies more environmentally responsible. As a result, the UUA committed to begin in Ft. Worth, TX. Two major factors shaped planning for Ft. Worth and limited what could be accomplished in the first year. First, the scope of implementing green practices was limited because contracts with hotels and the Fort Worth Convention Center had already been signed. Second, the city of Fort Worth had no commercial recycling service available to the convention center or any commercial property.

Having no recycling option in place posed a rather large challenge for providing what most would consider a basic green practice. But, the consulting firm hired by the GAPC, Meeting Strategies Worldwide, researched haulers in the area and found a local hauler, Woody Pemberton, of Tex America, who used this opportunity to create a whole new division for his waste haul business with only a few days lead time before the start of GA!

With a hauler in place and with skillfull last-minute negotiating with the convention center, Meeting Strategies' Amy Spatrisano was able to train their responsive staff and implement a new recycling program by the start of GA. Attendees were educated to the greening and by Friday of the GA week contamination in the trash bins was minimal. 150 pounds of plastic, 300 pounds of cardboard, and 50 pounds of aluminum were recycled.

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## **Five New Green Sanctuaries**

*Rev. Katherine Jesch, Coordinator  
Green Sanctuary*

Our community of Green Sanctuary Congregations continues to grow by leaps and bounds! Since General Assembly last June, we have awarded certificates to an additional five churches: UU Fellowship of Gainesville, FL; First Unitarian Church of Duluth, MN; UU Church of the Lehigh Valley in Bethlehem, PA; and First Unitarian Society of Madison, WI. Congratulations to these congregations for all their hard work and commitment!

We're also proud to acknowledge five new candidate congregations since June: Brookfield UU Church in Brookfield MA, Emerson Chapel in Ellisville, MO; First UU Church in Houston, TX; First UU Church in Nashville, TN; and Oak Ridge UU Church in Oak Ridge, TN. Several other candidates have also indicated that they are preparing their applications for accreditation, so we can anticipate a great celebration at General Assembly at St. Louis next June.

My conversations with GS coordinators in the congregations indicates that designing and conducting the environmental audit continues to be one of the more daunting requirements for starting the program. To address this challenge, I am preparing additional guidelines to clarify the objectives for this task and suggest some approaches that will be more practical. I have several good examples from successful congregations that I can share with newcomers to the process. I hope to have this material posted on our website by the end of the year, but in the meantime, congregations working on this task should not hesitate to contact me directly for advice and suggestions about the contents and level of detail that are expected.

This year we plan to establish a task force to review the accreditation process and consider possible requirements for maintaining accreditation. Our goal is to make sure accredited congregations are recognized for the continuing work they do, and that their experience can be shared with newer congregations in the process. We welcome suggestions for this review and are looking for volunteers for a task force that will begin work this winter. The task force will include both experienced Green Sanctuary leaders and those who have no experience with the process. Please contact me if you would like to be involved.

*Rev. Katherine Jesch 503-346-3634 [Katherine.Jesch@uuministryforearth.org](mailto:Katherine.Jesch@uuministryforearth.org)*

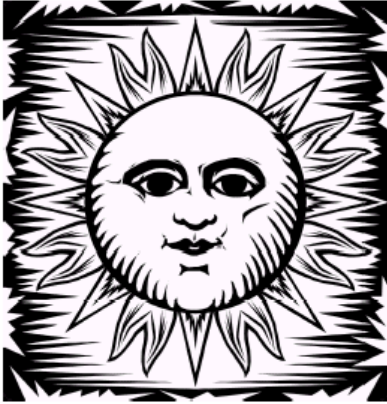
### **HELP WANTED**

In the next months UUMFE will be forming working groups on *Environmental Justice, Green Building, Outreach to Youth and Young Adults, and Environmental Health & Toxics* as mentioned on page 7.

If your passion centers on any one of these issues, please volunteer to help us build resources, GA programs, and ideas for action around these topics!

To volunteer, email or call the UUMFE office:  
[Office@UUMinistryforEarth.org](mailto:Office@UUMinistryforEarth.org) 301-588-0944

# Resource Reviews



**Review** by Jon McGovern

## Canticle to the Cosmos

*A twelve part video series  
by Brian Swimme based on the  
work of Thomas Berry.*

Picture yourself in the desert, lost and deliriously in need of nourishment. You stumble on a stash. It contains water, food and a map. You're stunned. Maybe, just maybe, you'll find your way out of here after all!

Such is the nature of "Canticle to the Cosmos". It is a survival kit for Earth. It offers a new perspective, a new language and a New Story, and it does so in the currency of choice, hard science.

Science has provided us with a much more accurate understanding of the story of creation with the result that we now find ourselves "between stories". The New Story represents our genuine biography. We weren't put here; we grew here from stardust. We're not here, separate and alone; we are here as part of the vast web of creation.

"Canticle" tells the scientific story of the universe with a profound feeling for its sacred nature.

Cosmologist Brian Swimme's magnificent synthesis of scientific insights provides a new interpretation of the human in the

universe and the Earth community.

We are currently showing "Canticles" at the Walpole Unitarian Church in New Hampshire. This is not always easy viewing. It is a new language and at times it's difficult to get your mind around the new perspective. We have found that stopping two or three times during a viewing and rehashing what we've just seen is an effective approach for following the meaning. In any case, whatever work you put into "Canticles" will be richly rewarded.

"We are not humans observing the universe; we are the universe awakening to itself." You can learn more about Brian Swimme and "Canticles to the Cosmos" by going to his web site at <http://www.brianswimme.org>.

*Editor's Note: Jon is the new UUMFE Regional Coordinator for the NH/VT District! Welcome, Jon.*

## NEW ADULT RE RESOURCE LINKS RELIGION & ECOLOGY

*By Karen Urbano, Board Member  
UU Ministry for Earth*

At the most recent General Assembly in Fort Worth, Texas another great UUMFE religious education resource was unveiled. Former board member of the Seventh Principle Project, Rev. Craig Scott of Berkeley, CA introduced his contribution

entitled *Earth and Spirit: Bringing Ecology into Adult Religious Education*. He presented a workshop highlighting some of the material in the new resource which includes quotes related to our need to care for the Earth and Creation from many religious traditions as well as many other course materials.

Rev. Scott writes, "The purpose... is to help you find ways... that religion has historically played in defining the relationships among the Spirit, humans and nature and to find a way that we can address these issues from a Unitarian Universalism perspective." Included are links to many, many additional resources, in print, online, and in video format, as well as sample course plans that can be adapted for use in your own congregations.

*Earth and Spirit* joins *Nurturing the Spirit-Nature Connection* as another rich resource available to Unitarian Universalists who care about protecting the Earth, and want to see this vital message passed on to others in their UU communities. *Nurturing the Spirit* was introduced at the 2004 GA in Long Beach. Its heart is a curriculum map for Children's Religious Education developed by Sparrow Alden, DRE at UU Congregation of the Upper Valley, Norwich, VT.

A third resource, *Honoring Earth: A UUMFE Worship* is also available to assist you in planning worship services.

And finally, the cornerstone of UU Ministry for Earth resources is the *Green Sanctuary Manual*, which guides congregations seeking Green Sanctuary certification.

*continued on page 11*

## GA Legacy *continued from page 8*

Spatrisano notes, “Those figures may not seem impressive, but considering this was the first time – with only a several day window- that commercial recycling was offered at the Fort Worth Convention Center, it’s huge! This is a legacy that the GA should be proud of building. The experience enlightened and encouraged the convention center staff to consider recycling in the future. It also gave a small local hauling business the opportunity to expand their business by offering a new service.” GA 2006 in St. Louis is being designed to be much greener, and convention facility goals include not only recycling, but energy and water conservation, improved practices in food delivery services, and green bathroom supplies and cleaning products. In addition, efforts will be made to reduce waste and increase eco-friendliness of materials used in the exhibit hall. Meeting Strategies is also working with hotels to upgrade to more sustainable options.

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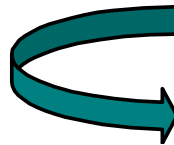
## UU Church, Sarasota

*continued from page 8*

*Finally, knowing The Truth and loving The Beautiful, we ask ourselves, what is The Good that we are here to do? What am I uniquely qualified to do, of the many tasks and changes that await us? In Part 3 we celebrate The Good that is already done here in our spiritual community, and The Good that is about to blossom through the Green Sanctuary program. Sermon: “A Bright Invisible Green: The Goodness of Sustainability”*

An Earth Trilogy – the True, the Beautiful, the Good – dance, multimedia worship elements, great sermon titles. Are you inspired yet? I know this is happening similarly in many places, please share your good works that we may change the world.

*Editor’s note: The sermons mentioned above were all delivered by Lea Hall, the new Regional Coordinator for Florida. She is available to speak on global warming and other topics in congregations in her region. Her contact information is on page 12.*



## Feedback Wanted

### Please Share Your Experience

Have you used one of the UUMFE resources? Perhaps *Honori`ng Earth* helped you to put together an inspiring Earth-centered worship service. Or *Nurturing the Spirit-Nature Connection* got your youth and children’s RE program going on an Earth-caring curriculum. Maybe you picked up the new adult resource, *Earth and Spirit: Bringing Ecology into Adult Religious Education*, and that helped to get your congregation involved in stopping global warming or the Green Sanctuary program in general.

UUMFE would like to know how you are using our resource materials and how we can improve them for future editions. We’d also like to know what is working well for you and invite you to make contributions. We are seeking readings, sermons and samples of Earth-centered worship services, especially intergenerational ones. You will retain the copyright on all original materials giving UUMFE reprint permission. We anticipate that the next version of *Nurturing the Spirit* will consist of an expanded new edition, while *Honoring Earth* will add a second volume.

To make your response to this request easier, you are welcome to use the format below:

1. Title of resource.
2. How have you used it?
3. What do you like about it?
4. What do you not like about it?
5. How would you improve it?
6. What would you like to contribute to a new edition?

Your snail mail responses should be sent to UUMFE, P.O. Box 11, Lyme, NH 03768 and by email to [karenjean@earthlink.net](mailto:karenjean@earthlink.net). Thanks for your help!

## New Adult RE *continued from page 10*

All resources are available for purchase:

- on our secure website: [www.uuministryforearth.org](http://www.uuministryforearth.org), or
- by phone (301-588-0944) or
- by mail ( P. O. Box 11, Lyme, NH 03768).

Prices are \$25 for the *Green Sanctuary Manual*, \$30 for *Honoring Earth*, and \$20 each for *Nurturing the Spirit-Nature Connection* and *Earth and Spirit*. Prices include shipping and handling. **100% of the profit from these resources is used to fund the work of UU Ministry for Earth.**

# Coming Soon! Regional Coordinators to Offer New Resources to UUs

Thanks to a generous grant from the Fund for Unitarian Universalism, we will be offering a weekend intensive training program in late November to kick off our new Regional Coordinators program. So far, sixteen people have volunteered to help us deliver UUMFE programs, support Green Sanctuary work, and facilitate collaboration among neighboring congregations in their local areas. Eventually we hope to have representatives in all 20 Districts, with two reps in some of the larger Districts. If you are looking for information or advice for various programs, or ideas for engaging UUs in your community on environmental issues, or would like to collaborate with other congregations in your area, we encourage you to contact the Coordinator in your District. If you are interested in serving as a Regional Coordinator in the following Districts: Ballou-Channing District, Central Midwest District, Clara Barton District, Heartland District, Mid-South District, or the Southwest District, please contact Rev. Katherine Jesch at [office@uuministryforearth.org](mailto:office@uuministryforearth.org).



## Are You Simplifying this Season?

We Can Help!

Make your holidays more Earth-friendly and meaningful by making a gift to UUMFE. We make it easy. Whether you want to give a hint to your family and friends who are asking you what you want for the Holidays, or you are pondering how to pare down your own gift-giving, we can help you make an alternative gift that really counts.

There are two ways to do it. First, visit the UUMFE website [www.uuministryforearth.org](http://www.uuministryforearth.org) and you will see a link called "Certificates for Giving and Receiving". Click on that link and you will find directions about how you can ask your friends and family to make donations to UU Ministry for Earth by downloading the **Gift Receiver Certificate**. If you wish to give a gift membership in UU Ministry for Earth to your family and friends you can download the **Gift Giver Certificate**.

This can all be done on line by credit card using our secure online form. Or you can go to the UU Ministry for Earth membership page to purchase memberships or make donations by check.

Of course, if you do not have access to a computer, you can always send a check to UU Ministry for Earth, indicating that it is a gift donation. Checks should be sent to UU Ministry for Earth, P. O. Box 11, Lyme, NH 03768. And don't forget to include the name and contact information of the person you are honoring, if you want them to be notified of your gift. Gifts are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Questions? Call 301-588-0944.

### Regional Coordinator Directory

#### Northeast Dist:

*Sally Breen*, Portland, ME,  
[NEDUUS@gwi.net](mailto:NEDUUS@gwi.net)

#### New Hampshire/Vermont Dist:

*Jon McGovern*, Walpole, NH,  
[jonm@vermontel.net](mailto:jonm@vermontel.net)

#### Mass Bay Dist:

*Bruce Langmuir*, Sudbury, MA,  
[db.m.langmuir@worldnet.att.net](mailto:db.m.langmuir@worldnet.att.net)

#### Clara Barton Dist:

*Kath Schomaker* Hamden, CT,  
[kathleen.schomaker@yale.edu](mailto:kathleen.schomaker@yale.edu)

#### Metro New York Dist:

*Reena Kondo* New York, NY,  
[reena.kondo@verizon.net](mailto:reena.kondo@verizon.net)

#### St. Lawrence District:

*Pat McEvoy*, Saratoga Springs, NY,  
[patsymce@earthlink.net](mailto:patsymce@earthlink.net)

#### Joseph Priestly Dist (DC metro

area): *Jack Harper*, Clifton, VA,  
[jacksonharper@verizon.net](mailto:jacksonharper@verizon.net)

#### Thomas Jefferson Dist (east):

*Kitty Bass*, Magnolia, NC,  
[mcbceffc@safedataisp.net](mailto:mcbceffc@safedataisp.net)

#### Thomas Jefferson Dist (west):

*Anita and Eric Harrington*, Clinton, TN,  
[ericanita@earthlink.net](mailto:ericanita@earthlink.net)

#### Florida Dist:

*Lea Hall*, Sarasota, FL,  
[leahall@comcast.net](mailto:leahall@comcast.net)

#### Ohio Meadville Dist:

*Nancy King Smith*, Shaker Heights, OH,  
[nancykingsmith@adelphia.net](mailto:nancykingsmith@adelphia.net)

#### Prairie Star Dist:

*Doug Walter*, Manhattan, KS,  
[kbsi@cox.net](mailto:kbsi@cox.net)

#### Pacific Northwest Dist:

*Rina Johnson Fa'amoe*, Redmond, WA,  
[rina@earthtones.com](mailto:rina@earthtones.com)

#### Pacific Central Dist:

*Craig Scott*, Berkeley, CA,  
[craigscott@earthlink.net](mailto:craigscott@earthlink.net)



## LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

### Join the UUMFE Visibility Campaign

If you see some connection between your faith practice and the fate of our Earth home. UU Ministry for Earth is asking you to make that connection visible. If you want an effective and engaged voice in our denomination to address the moral implications of living responsibly on this planet, then it is time to act.

We call on all Unitarian Universalists to do three things:

#### **BECOME VISIBLE. BECOME A MEMBER.**

Use the membership form on the next page or join on our secure online shopping cart: [www.uuministryforearth.org](http://www.uuministryforearth.org).

#### **MAKE YOUR FRIENDS & CONGREGANTS**

**VISIBLE, TOO.** Commit to personally enroll five (or more!) people to join you in membership. Membership brochures can be downloaded from the web or you may request print copies from the office.

#### **MAKE YOUR LOVE AND CONCERN FOR EARTH VISIBLE. WRITE A LETTER.**

UUA President Bill Sinkford has asked UU Ministry for Earth to demonstrate a grounded UU congregational grassroots interest in environmental issues – enough interest that it warrants ongoing UUA focus. Therefore, we are asking you to write a brief, personal letter to Rev. Sinkford. We hope that your letter will:

- Show the UUA that UUs care about the Earth and its fate
- Give examples from your life and your congregation of the kinds of action you are taking as part of your UU commitment
- Ask for the UUA to commit to making financial and other resources, including pastoral care, available to UUs working to build a just and sustainable Earth.

Please send your letter to:

Rev. William Sinkford, President  
Unitarian Universalist Association  
25 Beacon Street  
Boston, MA 02108-2800

In addition, please make sure UUMFE receives a copy of your letter either by email: [office@uuministryforearth.org](mailto:office@uuministryforearth.org) or by mail: PO Box 11, Lyme, NH 03768. Copying your letter to your UUA Trustee and your District Executive will heighten its effectiveness. Complete addresses are available on the web or in your church's UUA Directory.

We know it is often hard to find the time to even write a check, much less to do more. But when we look at the growing severity of the global warming crisis and have witnessed a horrendous example of the kinds of devastation that rising sea levels will certainly bring, when we grieve upon learning that toxics are now detected in even newborn babies, and when we witness escalating irresponsible consumption on a global scale at the expense of the poor and voiceless,

*how can we not act?*

**Your response to this campaign will shape how Unitarian Universalism responds to addressing our shared concerns.** UU Ministry for Earth needs the power of your participation so that together we can make visible our love for Earth.

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## UUMFE STAFF GROWS

As part of its efforts to build an effective and accountable organization, the UUMFE Board is proud to announce two new staff support positions.

Irene Keim is our new 40-hour-per-month paid office manager as of November 1. Irene is retired, and comes to us with a background in bookkeeping, budgeting and reporting in a state agency, and salary/budget planning in a large corporation. She is a very active member of her lay-led congregation, UU Church in the Pines, Brooksville, FL, and is now serving in Florida District posts and as a Regional Coordinator for the western half of Florida for UUSC. Her primary responsibilities will be to manage the membership database, handle communications, fulfill resource orders, and provide administrative support (and great cooking!) to the board.

In addition, we introduce Linda Collyer, a retired Certified Public Accountant and an accountant for the UU Affordable Housing Corporation in Silver Spring, MD, who has generously volunteered her services to UUMFE. Working with UUMFE Treasurer Terry Wiggins, Linda has set up a more detailed accounting system for us, and she will produce monthly and annual reports for us.

These two additions to our crew are an important organizational step forward, allowing Rev. Katherine Jesch to work exclusively on Environmental Ministry and management of the Green Sanctuary Program.

Welcome Irene and Linda and thank you!

# Stand and Be Counted for Earth.

## Individual/Household Membership (current until June 30, 2006)

- Thinking Like a Mountain (\$1000 or more)
- Soaring Like an Eagle (\$500)
- Putting Down Roots (\$250)
- Stepping in the Stream (\$100)
- Kindling the Flame (\$50)
- Planting the Seed (\$35)
- Student/limited income (\$20)
  
- Congregational Membership (\$100/year minimum)

Join UU Ministry for Earth or  
Order resources by credit card online at:  
[www.uuministryforearth.org](http://www.uuministryforearth.org)

*This twice-annual Newsletter is a benefit of membership. If you have not already done so, please renew as soon as possible.*

Name (as it appears on credit card, if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Address (billing address): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (required for credit card) \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail for updates \_\_\_\_\_

Check if you prefer to receive future newsletters electronically

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UU Ministry for Earth, PO Box 11, Lyme, NH 03768

Credit card payment: Visa \_\_\_\_\_ MC \_\_\_\_\_

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