

District UUs Present Workshops at General Assembly 2007

A full variety of outstanding workshops were presented by District UUs at General Assembly 2007 in Portland OR June 20-24. Sponsors ranged from the GA Planning Committee to the UU Historical Society. Following are brief workshops descriptions appearing in the program schedule.

Congress Shall Make No Law (GA Planning Committee Sponsored)

Last August, the Interfaith Alliance piloted its innovative LEADD (Leadership Education to Advance Democracy and Diversity) program. Thirty teenagers from differing faiths and home communities gathered to study Religious Freedom and First Amendment issues in a camp setting. Denny and Janice will share video highlights and curriculum pieces adaptable for congregational use. *Metro NY District Presenters:* **Denny Davidoff**, Unitarian Church in Westport (CT); **Janice Marie Johnson**, Director of Lifespan Religious Education, Community Church of New York UU (Manhattan)

Get a Grant From the UU Funding Program (UU Funding Program)

The UU Funding Program awards \$800,000 yearly in large and small grants to projects that strengthen UU institutions and community life, engage UUs in social responsibility and to non-UU groups organizing for justice. Meet the people making the grants and find out if your project is eligible for funding. *Metro NY District Presenter:* **Rev. Sarah Lammert**, Minister, Unitarian Society of Ridgewood (NJ). *Other Presenters:* Hillary Goodridge, Rev. Parisa Parsa, Paula Nett

Supporting and Sustaining Young Adult Members (UUA Staff)

Young adults bring energy and passion to congregations. Tapping that energy in healthy, appropriate ways leads to transformation and lifetime commitment to Unitarian Universalism. Exploiting young adult energy leads to resentment, burnout and bitterness. Learn how to tell the difference and how to create healthy relationships with young adults. *Metro NY District Presenters:* **Dr. Michael Tino**, incoming Minister, UU Fellowship of Northern Westchester (Mount Kisco NY); **Laura Beth Brown**, Youth and Young Adult Program Coordinator, UU Congregation at Shelter Rock (Manhasset NY). *Other Presenter:* Nancy DiGiovanni

Beyond UU 101: Lay Theological Education (Panel on Theological Education)

What if you love Unitarian Universalism and want to understand and study our faith in greater depth? Come hear about an exciting sampling of emerging opportunities for theological study for members of UU congregations. There will be a chance to envision and explore what you yearn for from your faith community. *Metro NY District Presenter:* **Denny Davidoff**, Unitarian Church in Westport (CT). *Other Presenter:* Gini Courter

Creating Congregational Histories (UU Historical Society)

Knowing its history helps a congregation shape its present identity and future direction. Whether your congregation has an established history program, or you want to start saving and using congregational history, in this workshop pick up tips for preserving congregational archives and producing creative written, oral, and electronic histories. *Metro NY District Presenter:* **Rev. Dr. Barbara Coeyman**, incoming Interim Minister, UU Fellowship at Stony Brook (NY)

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Cosmic Race, Rainbow People, and Other Myths (GA Planning Committee Sponsored)

The recent growth in the Latino(a) community has created a need to understand this diverse group of people in greater depth. This workshop will be an exploration of Latinas(os) Racial Identity and the impact of race and the construction of racial identity. *Metro NY District Presenters: Rev. Hope Johnson*, Minister, UU Congregation of Central Nassau (Garden City NY); **Janice Marie Johnson**, Director of Lifespan Religious Education, Community Church of New York UU (Manhattan). *Other Presenters: Jorge Zeballos, Rev. Patricia Jimenez*

Keep the Chalice Lit (UU Women's Federation)

Our foremothers and forefathers had the foresight and generosity of spirit to endow our UU organizations and congregations to keep them alive and vital for us. Learn from two experts how we can provide for the future of our beloved organizations and congregations while sustaining ourselves. *Metro NY District Presenter: Denny Davidoff*, Unitarian Church in Westport (CT). *Other Presenters: Barb Brown, Pat Grimm*

IARF: Creating Interfaith Connections, Locally and Globally (Florida District, UUA)

The International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF) can help your congregation to grow in interfaith dialogue, understanding and social action both locally and globally. Rev. Abhi Janamanchi, President of IARF, currently serving Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater, FL, and a panel including the international leader of the Young Adult Program, will present. *Metro NY District Presenter: Susan Caravello*, UU Congregation at Shelter Rock (Manhasset NY). *Other Presenters: Rev. Abhi Janamanchi, Rev. Doris Hunter*

Organizing for a Just Recovery in the Gulf (UUA Staff)

Following Hurricane Katrina, Gulf Coast congregation-based community organizations – All Congregations Together, Working Interfaith Network, and National Alliance to Restore the Gulf – mobilized constituencies, connected evacuees, advocated for a just recovery. Built on the strength of one-to-one organizing across class and race, leaders share rapid response and long-term systemic change strategies. *Metro NY District Presenter: Rev. Tony Johnson*, Affiliated Community Minister, Community Church of New York UU (Manhattan). *Other Presenters: Mary Croom-Fontenot, Rev. Steve Crump*

Revolution by Resolution: Celebrating 30 Years of Women & Religion (UU Women & Religion)

This worship service recalls the dramatic events leading to the creation and passage of the Women & Religion Resolution at GA 1977 and the resulting significant changes within the UU movement over the years since then. Script will be available for purchase and use in your own setting. *Metro NY District Presenter: Laurie James*, Community Church of New York UU (Manhattan), and Co-Chair, District Women and Religion Committee. *Other Presenters: Rev. Dr. Shirley Ranck, Rev. Dr. Dorothy Emerson, Helen Popenoe*

Sex, Religion and Politics: Reclaiming Our Moral Ground (UUA Staff)

Sex is one of the most divisive issues of our day and one where we have a unique and historic voice. Explore the history and theology of our work regarding reproductive justice and sexuality education. Learn from the experiences of advocates and ministers and craft effective, empowering messages. *Metro NY District Presenter: Rev. Debra W. Haffner*, Community Minister, Unitarian Church in Westport (CT). *Other Presenters: Emily Goodstein, Meredith Schonfeld-Hicks*