



# HEARTLINE

NEWSLETTER OF THE HEARTLAND UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST DISTRICT • SUMMER 2003

## Fall Training Institute Preview

By **Mary Andrus-Overley**, District Exec.

With the 2003 District Annual Meeting behind us—and thanks again to the District and Local Planning Committees that made it all so good!—our attention turns now to completing arrangements for the upcoming **Fall Training Institute**, scheduled for **Ft. Wayne, IN** over the weekend of **Sept. 26–28, 2003**. This Institute, being organized by the district Leadership Development Committee with assistance from other program committees and district staff, will be the largest leadership training event to date in the district. Confirmed training tracks include:

• **Planning for Growth and Vitality for Small Congregations**, led by the **Rev. Wendy Luella Perkins**, UUA-trained growth consultant (we need teams from at least seven congregations to retain this track, so let us hear from you now if you haven't already indicated interest in my e-mail poll)

• **Right Relations and Conflict Engagement**, led by the district's own new **Conflict Team**, to help congregations recognize the inevitable conflicts in group life early and manage them effectively for healthy and creative problem solving

• **Stewardship**, led by **Jerry King**, a UUA fundraising consultant whose stewardship track two years ago was well attended and well received—don't miss it this time if you didn't get a team there last time or you need to train a new leadership team for your next annual canvass

• **New DREs**, led by **Nancy Combs-Morgan**, the District's brand-new Lifespan Religious Education Program Consultant, for DREs just starting out or with limited experience

Four additional tracks are planned for the Institute. Arrangements are in progress for trainers for the following:

• **Advanced DREs**, led by **Rev. Emily**

**Leite**, minister of RE, for those with several years of experience

• **Our Whole Lives Facilitators** (probably elementary grades)

• **Youth Advisors**

• **Young Adult and Campus Ministry**

• **Social Justice** (specific topic still being decided)

As in past years, most of the training tracks will be geared to teams of 3–5 persons from each congregation. The obvious exceptions are the tracks for New and Advanced DREs, Our Whole Lives facilitators, and Youth Advisors.

We invite each congregation to put the Institute on its local calendar now, publicize the event in its next local newsletter, and begin to recruit appropriate teams to attend. Look for registration details in a mailing separate from the *Heartline* newsletter. We look forward to seeing many of you in Ft. Wayne at the end of September. ♦

## Heartland District Board Report

By **Doug Taylor**, V.P.—Programs

The following individual bits of information come to the surface, as we start a new church year. The Board of Trustees developed a set of goals or ends to direct the programmatic work of the district as it offers services to member congregations. The future focus of the Heartland UU District is as follows:

- Establish new congregations
- Develop and build skills among our UU leaders
- Support the growth of congregations
- Strengthen interaction with other UU congregations
- Support congregations acting on UU principles and purposes

The HUUD district has grown by 21.6% over the past 10 years and by 230 members. The board is committed to supporting growth in the district.

The recent embezzlement from the district office by a former employee is coming to a close. The district has pursued charges, and the Indianapolis district attorney has issued a warrant for arrest. Our church mutual insurance has paid the \$10,000 bonding, and the credit cards have not held us accountable for most of the charges. The district will recover much of the total. **Mary Andrus-Overley**, our district executive, along with **French Eason** and others have reviewed and tightened our administrative procedures for handling money and confidential information. These more rigorous controls proactively address concerns brought forth by our audit and will prevent future fraudulent activity.

The board looks forward to working with the newly elected district UUA trustee **Charles Redd**. We will miss **Gini Courter** very much after she concludes her term this summer. Her thorough reports and insightful advice to the board have been valuable assets.

The HUUD board met with a group of ministers at the annual meeting in Lexington, KY. This meeting strengthened the link between the district UUMA chapter and the HUUD board of trustees, further developing the communication network and linkages to our member congregations.

Have a good summer. ♦

### Heartline by E-mail!

Would you prefer to receive the *Heartline* newsletter as a PDF file via e-mail (viewable and printable using the free Acrobat Reader utility) rather than on paper via regular mail? If so, contact **Barbara Hamilton** at [office@heartlanduu.org](mailto:office@heartlanduu.org) with your name, address, and e-mail address.

# Annual Meeting a Real Celebration

By *Phyllis Thayer*, 2003 Annual Meeting Planning Coordinator

The Heartland District's 2003 Annual Meeting and Conference was full of celebra-tions! 167 people registered and were treated to Lexington's beautiful weather and hospi-tality. Our host church, the **UU Church of Lexington**, worked hard to welcome us and assist with the conference with over 20 vol-unteers. Their Saturday night event included a diverse musical presentation featuring talented performers. In addition, the Lexington UUs' Empty Bowls Social Justice Project raised over \$2,000 toward their ongoing project to clear a Mozambique Mine Field.

**Rev. Jill McAllister's** keynote speech on global UUism was right on target for

this year's theme of "Celebrating our Connections." A number of people commented that they had been aware of Jill's work, but this talk really made the work of the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists come alive and also challenged each of us U.S. UUs to practice our Principles in understanding and interacting with other cultures.

**Charles Redd** was elected as the district's new UUA Trustee and is already hard at work. We had 16 great work-shops, challenging attendees to choose just 2. We are still looking for a District Annual Meeting Coordinator for the 2004 meeting to be held in the Detroit area the first weekend in April. Please contact **Mary Andrus-Overley** at the District Office if you or someone you know might be interested in this important job.

**Be sure to put the April 2-4 2004 date of the next Annual Meeting on your**

**church calendars.** Many thanks to all who made this year's meeting a success! ◆

## Comments from New UU Trustee

By *Charles Redd*, UUA Trustee

Let me express with a great amount of humility, my gratitude to the delegates of the Heartland District UU District for their support of my candidacy to become the District's Trustee to the UUA. I have said on many occasions that it is what is done between elections that is most important. First, **Gini Courter** is irreplaceable. She has wisdom that can benefit each of us, and I will be calling on her to share some of that wisdom with me.

Second, I have provided some information that will guide the UUA Board when making "working commit-tee" assignments. Administration and Human Resources, Social Justice, and District Services are my primary requests. But this may change following the 2003 General Assembly in Boston.

Third, my term of office as the Heartland District Trustee to the UUA Board will not begin until the conclusion of the 2003 G.A. This will provide some time to make the transition and to visit with some UUs throughout the district

And last for now, accessibility is very important. Until the changes are made in the district's directory, you may contact me in the following ways: Charles B. Redd, 911 Woodview Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN, 46806; (260) 456-4356; e-mail: **credd@verizon.net**. Again, *thank you!* ◆

## Emerson Online

2003 marks the bicentennial of the birth of **Ralph Waldo Emerson**. The UUA's Emerson Bicentennial Committee has created a website at **www.uua.org/emerson** that includes a description of the bicentennial celebration's opening event in Boston (including audio of a new Emerson anthem); information about the resource packet mailed to all UU congregations to help with celebrat-ing Emerson's legacy; notice of events; and an online version of "The Living Legacy of Ralph Waldo Emerson" exhibit. You will also find references to publications on Emerson and links to other Emerson websites. ◆

### Heartline

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Heartland District of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations  
445 N. Pennsylvania Street, Suite 330, Indianapolis, IN 46204-1889  
(888) 948-HUUD (4883) fax 317-634-5385 www.uua.org/heartland

<b>District Executive</b>	Mary Andrus-Overley	888-948-HUUD	de@heartlanduu.org
<b>Office Administrator</b>	Barbara Hamilton	888-948-4883	office@heartlanduu.org
<b>Lifespan RE Program Consultant</b>	Nancy Combs-Morgan		

### Heartland Leadership

<b>President</b>	Connie Haas Zuber	260-456-4132 (H)	chzuber@comcast.net	Fort Wayne, IN
<b>V.P.-Finance</b>	French Eason	317-876-9862	frencheas@aol.com	Indianapolis, IN
<b>V.P.-Admin.</b>	Doug Taylor	812-949-0411 (H)	dougdig@aol.com	Louisville, KY
<b>Secretary</b>	Rev. Emmy Lou Belcher	269-947-3117 (W)	uufgtelb@chartermi.net	Traverse City, MI
<b>At Large</b>	Kyle Bagnall	989-839-6908 (H)	acanum@cs.com	Midland, MI
<b>At Large</b>	Sally Borden	313-533-1494 (H)	sborden@yahoo.com	Detroit, MI
<b>At Large</b>	Shirley Hoffstedt	616-847-1035 (H)	shoffi@altelco.net	Muskegon, MI
<b>At Large</b>	Michael Ohlrogge	517-349-6860 (H)	michaeloishere@netscape.net	East Lansing, MI
<b>At Large</b>	Rev. Laurie Proctor	219-744-1867 (W)	revdrpr@aol.com	Fort Wayne, IN
<b>Youth Observer</b>	Hannah Stampe	513-681-8973 (H)	hcsv13@yahoo.com	Cincinnati, OH
<b>UUA Trustee</b>	Charles Redd	260-456-4356	credd@verizon.net	Fort Wayne, IN
<b>Annual Meeting</b>	(Vacant)			
<b>Communication</b>	Rev. Todd Eklof	502-899-1337 (H)	todd@cliftonunitarian.com	Louisville, KY
<b>District Youth</b>	Teal Larsen (youth chair)	812-336-4050 (H)	tellynn@hotmail.com	Bloomington, IN
	Tim Murphy (adult chair)	765-643-6147 (H)	nightcoaster@yahoo.com	Indianapolis, IN
<b>Extension</b>	Rev. Nana Kratochvil	231-755-2931 (W)	huucnana@netonecom.net	Muskegon, MI
<b>Leadership Dev.</b>	Michael Dunaway	734-421-4844 (H)	mdunaway@twmi.rr.com	Farmington Hills, MI
<b>Lifespan R.E.</b>	Kathy Silver (co-chair)	734-433-9504 (H)	ksilver192@aol.com	Farmington Hills, MI
	Barbara Weber (co-chair)	937-435-5046 (H)	blw622@yahoo.com	Dayton, OH
<b>Social Justice</b>	Mary Lou Malone	313-837-7952 (H)	mimalone@flash.net	Detroit, MI
<b>Young Adult &amp; Campus Min.</b>	Rev. Kathryn Hawbaker	888-549-7221 (H)	revkat@bright.net	Oxford, OH
<b>Nominating</b>	Michael Dunaway	734-421-4844 (H)	mdunaway@twmi.rr.com	Farmington Hills, MI
<b>UUM Rep.</b>	Rev. Norman Naylor	248-524-9339 (W)	wwnd36@msn.com	Troy, MI
<b>MUUC Rep.</b>	Veronica Smith	313-824-2702	vsmith508@aol.com	Grosse Pointe, MI
<b>MUUC Rep.</b>	Susan Porter	317-251-7346	mrsporter@aol.com	Indianapolis, IN

Send news or articles to: Tiffany Taylor, Editor, 1001 Oakland Dr., New Albany, IN 47150; HeartlineNews@aol.com  
Address changes: Heartland District, 445 N. Pennsylvania, Ste. 330, Indianapolis, IN 46204; office@heartlanduu.org

**Next newsletter deadline: August 1, 2003**

# News from Our Congregations

What's happening in your congregation? Send your news to **Tiffany Taylor**, editor, [HeartlineNews@aol.com](mailto:HeartlineNews@aol.com).

## News from Birmingham

**Birmingham Unitarian Church** (Bloomfield Hills, MI) has been engaged in a **new system of policy governance** for the past several years. The All Church Council is now responsible for everyday approvals and operational decisions, while the Board concentrates on setting vision and direction. "BUC Governing Procedures," the Board's publication, appeared last year to launch this effort. Much progress has been made since then, although some additional changes in organizational structure will be needed to provide a more empowering environment for the Council, volunteers, and staff. Special congregational updates were held to explain how the church is run and to give members a chance for questions and input.

BUC's **Youth Chorus** fattened their coffers by offering Singing Valentines over the telephone at \$4 each, or 3 for \$10 (extra for long distance). And for a special treat, an adult quartet made personal appearances singing "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" on bended knee, for a bargain price of \$25.

## St. John's Camp Fire Club

Remember Campfire Girls? Well today it's **Camp Fire USA**, an inclusive, co-ed youth development and outdoor skills program like scouting, with a statement of core values a UU can love.

**St. John's in Cincinnati** has started a **Camp Fire Family Club**. They're starting small, about eight families with kids aged 5-12 and a few nonparent adults. They're meeting twice a month, including one meeting doing an outdoor activity (like an orienteering workshop next month) and planning their first camping trip. The church is already well known in both the GLBT and pagan communities, but this program further increases their outreach, as well as to UU and other families who have problems with Boy Scouting's membership policies. Besides area UU churches, St. John's is recruiting at liberal Protestant churches.

Does this sound like something your church might be interested in doing?

More information is available at [www.campfire.org/all\\_about\\_us/](http://www.campfire.org/all_about_us/) and [www.stjohnsuu.org/earthspirit](http://www.stjohnsuu.org/earthspirit), or from **Clare Iverson** at 513-631-2868 or [cfiverson@fuse.net](mailto:cfiverson@fuse.net).

## "Creating a Just Society" Conference in Lafayette

The UU Church of Lafayette, IN, in cooperation with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, is sponsoring an **all-day conference entitled: "Creating a Just Society; Developing Strategies for Local Action."** There will be a keynote speaker and six workshops related to social justice issues followed by a session to design local action.

• **Date:** October 25, 2003

• **Time:** 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

• **Place:** Central Presbyterian Church, Lafayette, IN

Registration will include breakfast, lunch and afternoon snacks. Further details will be included in the September issue of the *Heartline*.

## UU Social Justice Network of Southeast Michigan

A new UU Social Justice Network of Southeast Michigan, a group with representation from nine UU churches, **voted on March 3 to take a stand against a U.S. attack on Iraq.** The network agreed to urge UU churches to encourage their members to debate and speak out on this issue. The network mailed press releases on its position to over a dozen newspapers in Southeast Michigan.

Network activists from eight UU churches surveyed their members in February to learn which social justice issues should be Network action priorities. A total of 552 people completed the surveys (about 25% of adult members). The war on Iraq tallied significantly higher than any of the other 20 issues on the survey. The survey revealed other top issues of concern to local UUs: poverty, universal health care, and abortion/reproductive rights.

The Network also voted to work with the UU Service Committee to organize a "significant workshop" on a social issue during the Fall of 2003. An organizing committee is being assembled. Besides providing more information on an important social

justice issues, another aim of the workshop is to reach out to people in our region who might be UUs but don't know it. For more information on the UU Social Justice Network of Southeast Michigan, call or e-mail **Randy Block:** 248-549-5170, [beelock47@comcast.net](mailto:beelock47@comcast.net).

## New Pulpit at Emerson

**Emerson Church Unitarian Universalist** (Troy, MI) has a new pulpit designed to resemble a chalice. Commissioned by the **Rev. Norman Naylor**, Emerson's minister, and built by **Al Christian**, a member of the **UU Church of Greater Lansing**, the Chalice Pulpit raises and lowers with the gentle touch of a hand (hydraulically) to accommodate persons of varying heights.

This unique pulpit is made of white oak, ribbon mahogany, and ouenge woods. It contains forty separate pieces of wood. On top of the central pedestal, but unseen under the desk, is inscribed the Tibetan word *Om* in Tibetan script. Thus, the speaker can use this as a resource for centering thoughts. ♦

## InterConnections Seeks Contributed Articles

By *Don Skinner*

InterConnections, the **UUA newsletter for board members and professional staff** of all congregations, could use help with two articles for the August issue. They would like to hear from congregations that are good examples of the following:

• **Efficient, effective board-meeting agendas**—Running effective board meetings is partly a function of preparing an agenda that has just the right items, and no more. How do you decide what goes on the agenda and what you leave off, for committees to handle? Is there a pre-board meeting gathering to set the agenda? Who participates?

• **Hard-times canvasses**—Many annual canvasses this spring were down because of the economy and/or the war. If you found ways to keep your canvass robust in the face of recession, share them with the rest of us.

Please send responses to: [deskinner@kc.rr.com](mailto:deskinner@kc.rr.com). ♦

## Wanted: Volunteer with Event-Planning Experience

Having done an excellent job planning and coordinating this year's Annual Meeting, **Phyllis Thayer** needs to pass the duties of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee chair to a new volunteer. We invite anyone with event-planning experience to join us for the next two years in making our Annual Meeting a *must-attend* event for the district.

The chair has the support of committee members and the District Office. Committee members already in place at the district level include DREs, ministers, and an onsite registrar. The District Office provides extensive support during all phases, from event planning to onsite support. Each year, a new planning committee is recruited in the host city to assist with local arrangements. Plans are underway to secure the site for the 2004 meeting in Detroit and the 2005 meeting in Cincinnati.

If you're interested, contact **Mary Andrus-Overley** at [de@heartlanduu.org](mailto:de@heartlanduu.org).

or **Barbara Hamilton** at [office@heartlanduu.org](mailto:office@heartlanduu.org) at the District Office or call toll-free: 888-948-4883. ◆

## New RE Program Consultant

A warm welcome to **Nancy Combs-Morgan**, who joins the Heartland District Staff on July 1, 2003 in the newly created position of **Lifespan Religious Education Program Consultant**. She will be co-employed by the district and the UUA, and her hire makes Heartland the eleventh of our twenty Districts to add a Program Consultant in RE as a second District Staff professional.

Nancy has served our Lexington, KY congregation as DRE for the past several years. She and her son will continue to make their home in Lexington, giving us a second base from which to serve congregations all over the district. You'll hear from Nancy in the fall issue of *Heartline* and as she makes her way to a site near you to work with congregations in the coming year. ◆

## Heartland District Calendar

- June 6-8 Joint Heartland Board / Program Council / Nominating Committee Retreat, Indianapolis*
- June 26-30 UUA General Assembly, Boston, MA*
- July 16-Aug 6 Midwest Leadership School, Beloit, WI (2 sessions)*
- Aug 8-10 Heartland District Board Meeting*
- Sept 26-28 Heartland Fall Training Institute, Fort Wayne, IN (see p. 1)*
- Oct 25 "Creating a Just Society" Conference, Lafayette, IN (see p. 3)*
- Nov 14-16 Heartland District Board Meeting*
- April 2-4, 2004 Heartland Annual Meeting & Conference, Detroit*

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445 N. Pennsylvania Street, Suite 330  
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