



HEARTLINE

NEWSLETTER OF THE HEARTLAND UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST DISTRICT • SUMMER/FALL 2004

Wrapping Up Last Year and Looking Ahead

Mary Andrus-Overley, District Executive

Many thanks to all who helped to plan and carry out our District Annual Meeting, held in Southfield, Michigan, in early April. Set in the Detroit Metro area, the event provided both an urban experience and a universal experience that included a thought provoking presentation by the former Roman Catholic priest, **Matthew Fox**; a business meeting in which delegates elected District leaders, debated and amended by-laws, and approved an operating budget for the 2005 fiscal year; an array of workshops that received enthusiastic participation and feedback from participants; a Saturday evening Hip Hop Concert for youth and Social Justice Films for adults in our mid-town Detroit Church; and a consciousness-raising Sunday morning worship service on accessibility with the congregation of Northwest Church in Southfield.

One of the shortcomings of our planning process for this year's Annual Meeting was overlooking arrangements to take our own photographs during the many activities that constituted this event. We invite those of you who were there with your cameras, digital or the old-fashioned kind, to share copies of your best photographs with us for our use in future District publicity. Thank you in advance for your kind assistance.

We rolled out at the Annual Meeting our hot-off-the-press District Services brochure that describes the full range of services provided to our member congregations and developing congregations by our District staff and many dedicated volunteers. A sample brochure was subsequently sent out in the Monthly Congregational Packet for April, and we are ready to fulfill requests

(Continued on page 2)

HEARTLAND DISTRICT FALL TRAINING INSTITUTE

Oct. 15-17, 2004

Louisville, KY
Holiday Inn Lakeview
(Clarksville, IN)



Workshops

Program and Mission Budgets

Presenter: Jerry King

New DRE Training

Presenter: Nancy Combs-Morgan

OWL—Adult

Presenters: Carol Johnson & Mark Huffman

Planning for Growth & Vitality for Small Congregations

Presenters: Wendy Luella Perkins & Jeri Moulder

Perspectives on Disabilities

Presenter: Laurie Thomas

Event rate for overnight rooms = \$59.00 per night (max. 4 per room).

Home hospitality & scholarships will be made available.

See HUUD web site (www.heartlanduu.org) for online registration.

(Continued from page 1)

for many more of the brochures for your staff, board and/or council members, committees, and pamphlet racks. Look for an additional series of brochures in the coming year that describe in more detail some of the specific components of our District Services, such as our growing number and types of consultant teams, to help you to better evaluate which of the many services might best meet your congregation's needs.

As the program year begins this fall, note the wonderful opportunities that Heartland District provides for you, and plan to take advantage of some of these opportunities in the months ahead:

- **Cluster program development** is proceeding apace, with youth activities now being held in the Michigan,

Indiana, and Ohio-Kentucky clusters; young adult programming getting organized in the Ann Arbor-Detroit area and in Cincinnati with outreach up to Dayton and down to Lexington; and ministers and directors of religious education continuing to work toward joint professional meetings on a cluster basis. We look forward to hearing from many of you about what other kinds of cluster programming would best meet your needs—growth workshops for small or midsize congregations, social justice workshops and network development, canvasser workshops for annual pledge drives; training of your congregation's conflict engagement team; or periodic meetings of congregational presidents, treasurers, or other leadership groups. Tell us what you most need and want from your District, and we'll

do our best to deliver it. Our goal is to help your congregations to be as strong and healthy as they can be and to expand the availability of UUism to everyone in the Heartland who seeks a liberal religious home such as ours.

- Plans are under way for our next **Heartland District Fall Training Institute**, in Louisville October 15-17. There will be intensive training tracks for finance committees and others wanting to learn how to create mission-based budgets, teams eager to make their congregations more accessible to persons with disabilities, new religious educators, OWL facilitators, and teams learning about planning for growth and vitality for small congregations. We're seeking a few more good wo/men for the Leadership Development Committee; let me know if you have skills and interest to offer in this area.

- **MidWest Leadership School** offers a week-long leadership education and training session for current and future congregational leaders. Graduates of the School sing its praises every year. We'd like to see our Heartland District congregations getting full benefit from this multi-District collaboration to which we dedicate considerable District funds and paid and volunteer staff time. Next year's sessions are scheduled for July 13-20 and July 23-30 to provide flexibility for your summer planning. Brochures will be mailed to your congregation later this year, and registration will be open until June 1, 2005.

Look for other program and service announcements in the Congregational Packet sent monthly to every congregation from the District Office. Be well, and have an energetic and joyful start to your new program year!

RE-Vision

By Nancy Combs-Morgan, Lifespan RE Program Consultant

Here we are with Fall upon us...my biorhythm feels as if it is the beginning of a new year. One springboard into a Fall full of positive activity has been the tremendous success of so many of our Heartland groups last Spring. These successes connected congregations, helped our congregants (of all age groups) act on their faith in social witness, and raised the bar of our skills as

Heartline

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President	Connie Haas Zuber	260-456-4132	chzuber@comcast.net	Fort Wayne, IN
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	Tim Murphy (adult ch.)	765-643-6147	nightcoaster@yahoo.com	Indianapolis, IN
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Young Adult & Campus Min.	Linda Eppert	513-751-2552	Eppert@earthlink.net	Cincinnati, OH
Nominating	Barbara Weber	937-435-5046	blw622@yahoo.com	Dayton, OH
UUMA Rep.	Rev. Thomas Perchlik	765-288-9561	dharmarev@hotmail.com	Muncie, IN
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MUUC Rep.	Susan Porter	317-251-7346	mrsporter@aol.com	Indianapolis, IN

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Next newsletter deadline: November 1, 2004

faith-based, transformational leaders!

A great example was the **March for Women's Lives** last April in Washington, D.C. About 2,000 UUs were at the march, including folks from Kalamazoo, MI; Birmingham, MI; Cincinnati; and Lexington, KY. The mobilization for this special event was a great organizing tool for galvanizing our young adult/campus ministry network here in HUUD. Due to the interest and the participation of existing and emerging YA/CM groups in Lexington, KY; Cincinnati; Dayton, OH; Richmond, IN; Bloomington, IN; Muncie, IN; Ann Arbor; Kalamazoo, MI; and Portage, MI, our network congregations are moving into greater interaction with one another.

I'm thrilled to report that ministerial candidate **Linda Eppert** from Cincinnati has agreed to chair our YA/CM Committee. We share the goal of recruiting more young adults to join our committee and making sure that communication and leadership opportunities are available to our young adults.

Regional Campus Ministry Conference

The **Regional Campus Ministry Conference** in Kalamazoo, MI, Nov. 5–6, is one of only eight happening across the continent in the Fall. A UUA facilitator will lead us in exploring small group vision, small group organizing, articulating (y)our faith, and congregational connections. Contact **Nancy Combs-Morgan** at pc@heartlanduu.org if you or your group would like to attend.

Cluster Groups and Special Events Coming This Fall

July marked the completion of my first year as your Lifespan Religious Education Program Consultant! I've been blessed to be a part of the process where our religious educators, youth, and YA/CM participants now meet in geographic cluster groups.

The **Indiana Youth Cluster Group** is kicking off its year with a day-long meeting at UUI in Indianapolis on August 28. Also, the **Indiana DRE Cluster** group met in July to plan their year (all are welcome to their next meeting in Bloomington, IN on Sept. 15 from 11 a.m.–2 p.m.; contact **Lisa Minor** at bloomdre@yahoo.com). They plan to meet on the third Wednesday of every month, with locations rotating. Our **Michigan DRE Cluster** group has also mapped out a schedule for the

year and will meet on the second Friday of each month.

Be sure to include on your calendar the **LREDA Fall Conference** in Chicago on October 22–24. A contingent from our Heartland LREDA chapter is going, and it would be super if we could all gather for fellowship at the conference.

October is full of tremendous leadership skill and continuing education opportunities. October 1–3 is the **"Involve: Welcoming Children with Special Needs"** training led by **Sally Patton** in St. Louis. If you'd like to attend, registration is \$60, and hotel accommodations for 2 nights will be \$70. Let me know ASAP if you're interested in attending; registration is limited.

Finally, I hope many of you will come to our **Fall Training Institute**, October 15–17. For religious educators (volunteer or paid), there will be a "New DRE" training that I will facilitate, as well as an Adult OWL training.

Inter-District Habitat for Humanity Effort

Congratulations and kudos to the 39 youth and 12 adults from our Central Midwest and Heartland districts who worked on 4 Habitat for Humanity houses in Morristown, TN in July. In addition to their contribution of labor for the week, they also made a cash donation to the Lakeway Area Habitat for Humanity Chapter. The great success of this inter-District social justice effort was largely due to **Hal Schulman** from Geneva, IL and **Karen Brown** and **Susan Cassada** from UUI in Indianapolis.

UUs celebrate their Habitat for Humanity efforts in Tennessee

There are plans to continue this social justice effort next summer.

Faithful Democracy: Election 2004 Event

Working with members of our Young Adult/Campus Ministry network who have become involved in registering folks to vote this November made me wonder how many of our Heartland congregations are involved in the **UUA Campaign for the 2004 Elections**. I sent out a notice to all our congregations to let me know what they're up to, and I was thrilled with the response. In the Detroit area, the UU Social Justice Network of Southeast Michigan has been leading workshops on how to get out the vote and registering folks in Michigan. In Bloomington, IN, a group has been meeting to mobilize registration efforts throughout the town.

On August 8, **Rev. Bill Gupton** of Heritage UU Fellowship and **Rev. Morris Hudgins** of Northern Hills UU Church led a special worship service on the importance of working on our religious values as UUs to participate in community partnerships to get out the vote for Election 2004. The afternoon workshop was led by **Sarah Craft**, the UUA Voting Project Coordinator in our Advocacy and Witness Office in Washington, D.C. As **President Bill Sinkford** has said, "There is work to be done...we want to see this nation's promise of democracy restored and do what we can to ensure that everyone's vote gets counted." ◆



News from Our Congregations

What's happening in your congregation? Send your news to HeartlineNews@insightbb.com.com.

News from Birmingham

As spring took hold in Michigan, the **Birmingham Unitarian Church** geared up to enter a new phase of its life as a church. The May Annual Meeting of the congregation elected members of a search committee formed to select a new Associate Minister. As BUC has continued to grow, it has become evident that to meet the expanding pastoral needs of the congregation, a single minister hasn't enough hours in the day. Assuming that all the financial indications are in place and that the congregation continues to support this effort, the search process will take the better part of a year. It is hoped that the search committee will be in a position to recommend an Associate Minister candidate to the congregation in spring 2005.

First Church Louisville Displays Support for Civil Marriage

On June 7, at **First Unitarian Church of Louisville's** Annual Meeting, the congregation unanimously adopted the following: *Resolved that First Unitarian Church of Louisville, Kentucky adopts a corporate position in support of legal recognition of marriage between members of the same sex on an equal basis with marriage between members of the opposite sexes; and be*

it further resolved that First Unitarian Church of Louisville, Kentucky make this position known through the media, through denominational gatherings, through banners and signs, and through all other appropriate means.

Two days later, on June 9, the church held a special evening service to celebrate the hanging of a large banner on the outside of the building, which reads "Civil Marriage Is a Civil Right." The church is located in a busy downtown area, so the banner is sure to attract attention. To read the complete text of the resolution and see photos from the service, visit www.firstulou.org.

Grosse Pointe Honors 20-Year Minister

On March 21, 2004, **Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church** held a special service to honor **The Reverend John Corrado's** twenty years of service to Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church. The service theme was Service and Fidelity as exemplified by Rev. Corrado.

Four members gave a "sermon" that included remembrances of how Rev. Corrado was called to our faith community and the meaning of fidelity and service in our modern society. The service was ended by children from our religious education program singing "We Will Keep a Place for You" (composed and written by Rev. Corrado) as Reverend Corrado exited the chapel. A reception followed, giving members an opportunity to congratulate and thank Rev. Corrado for his service and fidelity to us and to the principals of Unitarian Universalism over the past twenty years. ◆

Ministerial Transitions

Mary Andrus-Overley, District Executive

Please join me in extending a warm welcome to the ministers who begin new ministries in the District in late summer: The **Rev. Jay Abernathy** with the UU Congregation of Fort Wayne, the **Rev. Don Garrett** with the UU Church of Indianapolis, the **Rev. Jill Terwilliger** with the UU Community Church of Southwest Michigan in Portage, the **Rev. Cynthia Landrum** with the East Liberty Church in Clarklake, and the **Rev. Cathy Harrington** with People's Church in Ludington.

We also congratulate the search committees for work well done; send good wishes to the congregations preparing to undertake ministries with their thoughtfully chosen new professional leaders; and express our appreciation to the interim ministers who concluded important transitional work with these congregations: the **Rev. Jill Terwilliger** in Clarklake, the **Rev. Dave Johnson** in Portage, the **Rev. David Parke** in Ludington, and the **Rev. Ed Harris** in Indianapolis. Our appreciation, as well, to **Dr. Michael Spath**, who provided ministerial and program coordination services to the Fort Wayne congregation.

The turning of congregational leadership cycles brought to an end several other ministries. Shortly after giving birth to their second child, the **Rev. Lisa Friedman** from the UU Church of Flint followed her husband to his new job in Minneapolis, where she is taking time with the children and cutting back to part-time ministry. The **Rev. Jean Wahlstrom** will serve the congregation as interim minister. The **Rev. Larry Hutchison** retired from First UU Church of Detroit to devote time to his highly skilled woodworking; the **Rev. David Parke** will serve as interim minister. The **Rev. Norm Naylor** retired from Emerson Church in Troy, and the congregation will receive interim ministry services from the **Rev. Richard Beal**. The **Rev. Emmy Lou Belcher** completed her ministry with the UU Church of Grand Traverse in Traverse City and headed east for a year of interim ministry in Morristown, NJ. The **Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster** will serve as interim minister with the congregation. We wish all of these departed ministers the very best. Our best wishes, too, to the congregations and their interim ministers. ◆

Safe Word / Peaceful World

Fourth Annual Earth Charter Summit

Saturday, October 9; 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Unitarian Universalist Church
615 West 43rd Street, Indianapolis, IN

Workshops, Exhibits, and Children's Activities

Keynote Speaker Dr. Helen Caldicott started and headed Physicians for Social Responsibility and Women's Action for Nuclear Disarmament.

She has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize and awarded the Ghandi Peace Prize. She authored *Nuclear Madness*, *If You Love This Planet*, and other books.

For more information about the Earth Charter, visit www.earthcharter.org.



All About ChaliceLighters

Steve Scott, Heartland ChaliceLighter Coordinator

Several folks have written asking for further details about the Chalice-Lighter program. I thought an open letter here in the District newsletter would be the best place to explain the program.

Most districts have a ChaliceLighter program. Not all programs function exactly alike, so I'll give the specifics of the Heartland program. The Chalice Lighter (CL) program is a grant program administered by the Extension Committee of the Heartland District. Funds for grants come entirely from donations Heartland UUs. Congregations that receive the grants are all Heartland District congregations.

Congregations applying for CL grants must be current Fair Share givers to both the District and the UUA. At least 10% of the members of congregations applying for a grant must be participating ChaliceLighters. Just signing up to be a ChaliceLighter isn't enough: Responding to the calls with a contribution is considered participating.

Grants may be requested to assist a congregation in: securing a new building, renovating an existing building, or other capital projects to eliminate barriers to growth; or hiring a first or additional minister, first or additional religious educator, first music director, or first paid office staff.

Applicants are asked to complete a rather exhaustive grant application form. Completion of this form requires a thoughtful and comprehensive look at the history, present status, and vision of a congregation. The information supplied explains in detail what the grant will be used for and how the expected result will promote growth.

When the District office receives the applications, they're copied and sent to the members of the Extension Committee for study. After the deadline for applications for the call has been reached, the committee meets to discuss and further evaluate the applications. During this meeting, we choose the congregation(s) that will receive the next grant. Sometimes we split the proceeds of a call between two congregations. Sometimes we split the grant for

one congregation between two calls. We do this because some grant requests are more time sensitive than others and because some grants are larger than others.

We make three CL calls each fiscal year (July–June): fall, winter, and spring. At each call, we ask that you honor your commitment by sending your pledge to the Heartland District office. Your participation and trust are essential to the continued success of the CL program and the difference it's making in the growth of your liberal religion in this district.

If you'd like to become a Chalice-Lighter, your congregation should have brochures available; or go to the district website, www.heartlanduu.org.

If you're interested in the growth of our liberal religion and would like to find out about joining the Extension Committee, contact the Heartland District office: 888-948-4883. ◆

Anne Miller Award Winner Announced

Please congratulate **Laura Spencer** for receiving this year's Heartland District **Anne Miller Award for Excellence in Lifespan Religious Education**. Laura has been DRE at First UU Church of Ann Arbor for 11 years. She was a member of the Michigan District Lifespan Religious Education Committee and continued to serve the Heartland LRE Committee after the formation of the new district. Laura ably chaired this committee for several years.

Laura has also participated nationally in Conclave, as well as provided national leadership in ethnic and racial justice issues. She's been an active member of LREDA, including serving as Good Offices Person. She's worked to bring dignity and professionalism to the role of religious educator.

Laura has sought out continuing education on a regular basis, participating in the Renaissance program as well as Midwest Leadership School and other training opportunities. She authored "Our Seven Principles" in Essex Conversations as well as a self-published curriculum, "Mothers and Maidens." Her portfolio of RE work is expansive.

Laura has always been an encouraging and inspiring guide in the world of RE. The quality of her work, her caring about our profession and about those we serve, her dedication to our UU faith, her hard work, and her thoughtful purposefulness are all reasons that Laura Spencer is worthy of receiving this year's Anne Miller Award. ◆

OWL for Adults

Many of our congregations rave about Our Whole Lives for seventh and eighth graders. OWL is the human sexuality curriculum created jointly by the UUA and the United Church of Christ. We often hear that the class is formative in our young teens' development of healthy attitudes toward sexuality in their lives.

What some people do not know, however, is that the curriculum recognizes sexuality as a basic part of humanity throughout our lifespan. It therefore has sections for various ages, from kindergarten through adulthood.

Because of the sensitive nature of the topics covered by OWL, training for OWL facilitators is very important. Heartland will be offering this training for the Adult section of OWL during the Fall Training Institute, Oct. 15–17. The brochure for the Fall Training Institute has more details. You can also contact **Barb Weber** at BLW622@yahoo.com or at the **Miami Valley UU Fellowship**. ◆

Nominating Committee Needs Your Input

It's never too early to begin thinking about next year's leaders for our Heartland District. This year's Board isn't half way through their term, but your Nominating Committee will soon be hard at work finding people to fill vacated positions next year. We'll be recruiting folks to serve on the District Board, on the Nominating Committee, and on the Midwest UU Conference (a group responsible for administering grant funds).

If you know someone (maybe you?) with good leadership skills who might be interested in one of these positions, please contact the Nominating Committee through the District office. ◆

District Seeks New *Heartline* Editor

It's time for *Heartline* editor **Tiffany Taylor** to pass the editorship to a new person. If you have some spare time; experience with editing, layout, and/or newsletter production; and the desire to serve the Heartland District, the District Office would like to hear from you.

The *Heartline* editor job is a *volunteer position*. The time commitment is about 10 hours every 3 months—probably less, once the new editor gets the hang of things. The newsletter is currently produced using PageMaker, but it would be possible to switch to a different layout program fairly easily. We also use Adobe Acrobat to create PDFs for proofing and printing.

The job description is straightforward. The editor sends out quarterly reminder emails to church/district

leaders, compiles and edits all articles, puts together the newsletter's layout, proofreads the newsletter, sends it to the District Office for additional proof-reading, makes any revisions, and sends the files to the printer. All aspects of mailing are handled by the District Office.

If you have any questions about the *Heartline* production process, you can contact Tiffany at **HeartlineNews@insightbb.com** or 812-949-0411. If you're interested in this volunteer job, please be in touch with the District Office (contact information is in the masthead on page 2). ◆

New *Heartline* Email

The *Heartline* editor has a new email address. Please send news and articles to:

HeartlineNews@insightbb.com

Heartland District Calendar

*October 4-6 UUMA Retreat,
Loveland, OH*

*October 15-17 Fall Training
Institute, Louisville, KY*

*October 22-23 Program Council,
Ft. Wayne, IN*

November 1 Heartline deadline

November 12-14 Board meeting

*November 25-26 Heartland District
Office closed*

*December 24-31 Heartland District
Office closed*

*January 21-22 Program Council,
Cincinnati*

*January 30-February 2 UUMA
Retreat, Angola, IN*

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