

Lifespan Faith Development Report to the UUA Board of Trustees For January 2007

**Judith A. Frediani, Director of Lifespan Faith Development
Adrienne Ross, Staff Group Administrator and Project Manager**

Religious stories help children look inward as well as upward.
Robert Coles, *The Spiritual Life of Children*

Stories are the engine of learning.
Taylor Branch, speaking of the Civil Rights Movement

Lifespan Faith Development – the staff group and the process – is at heart about stories: discovering, telling, living and making meaning from stories. Behind this report on the work of LFD are people making stories – like the UU youth who are making stories about justice-seeking, leadership development and community building. And the stories told by Tapestry authors for children, youth, and adults that make our faith accessible and make our own stories engines of learning. Nowhere is our storytelling more critical to our faith and identities than in the stories we tell our children. Our report begins with the amazing work on the children’s curriculum under the leadership of Tracey Hurd.

**Children and Families Programs
Tracey L. Hurd, Ph.D., Children and Families Programs Director
Barbara Gifford, Resource Development Assistant**

Tapestry of Faith Children’s Programs: Important Themes

Many issues and themes have emerged as we create the Tapestry programs. The following four areas have been particularly central to our work:

- **Being accountable**
Manuscript drafts undergo a series of editing processes: developmental editing, critical readers, technical editing and editor/author reviews. During detailed developmental editing, sessions, stories and activities will be subjected to scrutiny with the questions: “How does this deepen our faith? How does this part relate to the whole? How does this further the participant’s UU identity, and spiritual and ethical development?” The privilege and responsibility of this project demands excellence; we seek to be accountable to the goals and plans outlined for Tapestry of Faith. It is a joyful and daunting process.
- **Covering and uncovering UU history*.**
Writing the programs has been a process of discovery. We have found that we need new stories written about our UU history. Using primary sources to research one story, we often uncover other stories. This is exciting—it means we

are truly bringing new stories, lifting up untold history in our children's programs. At the same time we are mindful that Tapestry must include classic stories so that children learn UU history that is more widely shared and loved. Since the program is integrated, we are constantly looking between programs and planning for those to come. If a child meets Julia Ward Howe in second grade and learns about one aspect of her life, that child may meet her again in the fourth grade, learning about another aspect of her life. We seek breadth and depth for our children.

- Using our Sources with sensitivity to misappropriation
When writing children's programs we are literally charting the sources that are embedded in the material. We seek layered experiences and layered understandings. We want children to understand the sources as lenses for understanding values, ethics, and the wonder of life. For example, in one of the *Living Faith* programs, the relational meaning of "home" is explored through stories of Henry David Thoreau, Mohammad, and Naomi and Ruth. We return always to the question: What does this mean to you as a Unitarian Universalist?

- Welcoming all children
To be faithful, our programs must welcome all children with their diversity of abilities—seen and unseen. We have committed to reviewing each activity in our children's programs for accessibility issues and offering adaptations, revisions and /or alternatives to be as inclusive as possible. This information needs to be "front and center," not relegated to an appendix, and therefore it will appear with each activity. This work requires another layer of editing and content enhancement. And we are honored to have that task.

* At this time, the three *Living Faith* programs together feature stories about the following people who have shaped our Unitarian Universalist heritage:

James Luther Adams; Hosea Ballou; Margaret Barr and Hajom Kissor Singh (Indian Unitarian Universalists); Henry Bergh; Tim Berners-Lee; Olympia Brown; Rachel Carson; Millard Fillmore; Frances Ellen Watkins Harper; Julia Ward Howe; Dr. Charles Joy; Viola Gregg Liuzzo; Mary Livermore; Lewis McGee; John Murray; Arthur Nash; Theodore Parker; Pete Seeger; Martha and Waitstill Sharp; Robert Shaw; King John Sigismund; Henry David Thoreau; Transylvanians under Nicole Ceausescu; Universalist circuit riders, with reference to Ballou; and Whitney Young Jr.

Tapestry of Faith Children's Programs: Update

The first drafts of four Tapestry of Faith children's programs (*Living Faith*) are in and ready to edit for field test. A Toolkit book manuscript on using stories religiously is also complete and ready to edit for publication. At the same time, we are already creating writing teams for our next wave of children's curricula, *Seeking Truth*.

The Living Faith Programs are scheduled to be on-line in beta (pre-field test) versions in June 2007. Tracey Hurd serves as developmental editor.

Living Faith Programs

- **We'll Build a Land: Creating Home** (Kindergarten – 1st Grade)
Writers: Jessica York and Christy Olsen
Children explore stories, hands-on activities and tales from sacred texts as they develop a sense of home grounded in faith and relationships. 16 Sessions.
- **We Give Thanks: Lived and Living Faith** (2nd – 3rd Grades)
Writers: Dr. Jenice View and Gabrielle Farrell.
Children explore justice, Unitarian Universalism, and the axiom “you can’t say that you can’t play” in the lives and work of those who have shaped our faith. They consider what that means for living in faith today. 16 Sessions.
- **For the Journey: Building a Toolbox of Faith** (4th – 5th Grades)
Writers: Katie Erslev with Rev. Paul S. Sawyer, consulting.
Children encounter tools of Unitarian Universalist faith, and compelling stories of their use. They will discern what is helpful to them as they develop their own toolbox of faith to help them navigate life issues. 16 Sessions.

Inter-Session Program

- **Miracles** (2nd – 3rd Grades and Intergenerational)
Writers: Dr. Miriam W. Smith and Rev. Chris Craethnenn.
With a lens of appreciation and reverence, participants explore miracles of transformation as they occur in everyday life and the natural world. 8 Sessions. This program is scheduled to be ready for field test in June 2007.

Book from the Toolkit Series

- **Narrative and Faith Development** (a resource for families, religious professionals, teachers, and lay worship leaders)
Writer: Gail Forsyth-Vail, and Developmental Editor, Tracey L. Hurd
This book presents over twenty soul-stirring stories, with background notes and suggestions about how they can help Unitarian Universalists of all ages grow in faith. It will be available in fall 2007.

Seeking Truth Programs: Writing to commence February 2007

Authors are being selected from a pool of applicants for the four programs in *Seeking Truth*. The writers will gather for an initial meeting in Boston followed by individual and team writing with draft manuscripts due July 2007. These programs will be ready for beta test in June 2008 for fall 2008 field test.

- **The Welcome Table: Friendship and Fairness** (Kindergarten – 1st Grade)
Children will understand their natural impulses toward friendship and fairness, truth and justice, in the stories they create, the stories they love, and in their lives, with UU faith as a context. 16 Sessions.

- **Moral Tales: Justice and Goodness** (2nd – 3rd Grades)
Using tales of prophets and diverse literature of moral tales, children will explore goodness and justice in the context of Unitarian Universalist faith. 16 Sessions.
- **Through the Open Window: Self and Others** (4th – 5th Grades)
Children will look at their circles of belonging and identities, privilege and oppression in light of Unitarian Universalist faith. They will explore respect, relational skills and hospitality as religious goods that emphasize power together rather than power over others. 16 Sessions.
- **Amazing Grace: Virtue and Sin** (6th Grade)
This program takes on these big questions of virtue, sin, goodness and evil in the context of Unitarian Universalist faith. Youth will explore how many world religions view virtue and sin and ponder their own understandings. 16 Sessions.

Presentations

Children and Families Programs Director Tracey Hurd presented the following:

- Faith Development of Children and Youth, a workshop for the Northeast Liberal Religious Educator's Association, Littleton, MA, September 15, 2006.
- Growing in Faith, a presentation at the inaugural Clara Barton Excellence in Religious Education Conference, Marlborough, MA, November 21, 2006.

Web Resources

- [New and Recommended Resources](#) for Fall/Winter: From the Lifespan Faith Development staff group. This is a comprehensive, compilation of resources with hyperlinks for religious educators. Topics from this edition include resources about: Racism & Classism; Social Action & Service Learning; Curricular Resources; and Family Resources.
- "[Taking time for the stories of our lives](#)" by Tracey Hurd, on www.uua.org, explores time, families, wisdom stories, and the value of taking time.
- Resources for UUA Board Responsive Resolution: Congregations can learn more about racism and classism. Provided on-line [resources for children, families and religious educators](#), including resources on [cultural \(mis\)appropriation](#).

Tapestry of Faith programs for Junior High & Senior High Youth Judith A. Frediani

- **Coming of Age** by Sarah Gibb Millspaugh, Judith Frediani, developmental editor, is in field test. This resource will be prepared for congregational use in the 2007-2008 church year.
- **Families** by Tracey L. Hurd, Judith Frediani developmental editor, is being prepared for web publication on the new UUA website via a new content management system on a new curriculum template designed by LFD in collaboration with OEC.

- **Exploring Our Identities through Poetry** by Karen Harris, Judith Frediani, developmental editor, is similarly being prepared for electronic publication.
- **When Youth Lead: a Guide to Intergenerational Social Justice Ministry Plus 101 Youth Projects** by Jill Schwendeman, Judith Frediani, developmental editor, is a Toolkit Book due from the printer on January 12, 2007.

Adult Programs

Rev. Sarah Gibb Millspaugh, Adult Programs Director
Rachael Brown, Curriculum Development Assistant

Tapestry of Faith Update

The field tests of two *Tapestry of Faith* adult programs are concluding in January:

- ***Principled Commitment: a Program for Unitarian Universalist Couples*** (publication scheduled Summer of 2007) and
- ***Our Whole Lives for Young Adults*** and ***Sexuality and Our Faith for Young Adults*** (publication scheduled for fall of 2007).

Writing continues on two *Tapestry of* spirituality programs for adults, tentatively titled ***Spirit of Life*** by Barbara Hamilton-Holway and ***Spirit in Practice*** by Erik Walker Wikstrom

We are selecting authors for four additional *Tapestry of Faith* adult programs on the themes of leadership, UU theological diversity, liberal theology, and values and morality. Writing on these programs is scheduled to begin in the spring and summer of 2007.

We have scheduled a Training of Trainers for Adult and Young Adult *Our Whole Lives* programs at the UUA in July. Trainers will be prepared to lead weekend workshops for teachers of the Adult and Young Adult OWL curricula in congregations, campuses, and other settings.

On a personal note, adult programs director Sarah Gibb Millspaugh has married John Gibb Millspaugh, minister of Tapestry, a Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Mission Viejo, CA. Her name has changed—Millspaugh is now her last name with her old last name, Gibb, as a middle name.

Worship Web

Barbara Gifford
Judith A. Frediani

We are very pleased to announce that our new Worship Web coordinators will start in January. Mara Dowdall and Julia Hamilton, who are studying for the ministry at Harvard Divinity School, have agreed to serve as our part-time (10

hours/week each) consultants. They will continue to expand the resources offered on the UUA's worship website and contribute to development of other Lifespan Faith Development resources.

- Mara, who will graduate in June, 2007, has "a passion for worship" and years of congregational experience – as a layperson and ministerial intern – facilitating worship with people of all ages. She is Coming of Age Co-Leader at First Parish in Cambridge, MA.
- Julia has served internships as a chaplain at New York Presbyterian Hospital and at MIT's Technology and Culture Forum, where she created and ran a student discussion group on ethical and spiritual considerations about work in science and technology. She is experienced in congregational life, having worked as Office Manager at The Fourth Universalist Society of New York.
- A collection of worship resources for Winter occasions has been posted on the Worship Web at <http://www.uua.org/worshipweb/calendar/winter.html>

UUA Pamphlets

Judith A. Frediani, Barbara Gifford, Rose Hanig

- Three pamphlets are in development. Manuscripts for *UU Views of the Sacred* and *UU Views of Evil*, Paul Rasor, editor, are being prepared for press. Authors for these pamphlets include James Ishmael Ford, Abhi Janamanchi, Liz Lerner, Judith Meyer, Patrick O'Neill, and Victoria Safford. The manuscript for *Table Graces and Prayers for Unitarian Universalist Use in Unitarian Universalist Home*, Irene Praeger, collection editor, has been received.
- ? Reprints, with updated resources, of *Finding a Spiritual Home*, by Michael Tino, and *Faith of a UU Theist*, by Rosemary Bray-McNatt, are on the way to the printer.

Youth Office

Jesse Jaeger, Youth Programs Director

Rek Kwawer, Youth Office Assistant

Beth Dana, Youth Ministry Associate

Laura Manning, Youth Ministry Associate

The Consultation on Ministry to and with Youth:

The Consultation is progressing very well as we become more and more focused on the upcoming Summit on Youth Ministry (July 2007) that will conclude this stage of the consultation process. A full report appears in the Board section of this report.

YRUU Leadership

Since the last board report, the final two members of the YRUU Steering Committee have been selected. They are POCAC member Brian Acevedo, and Adult Person of Color support Denise Hall.

The first YRUU Steering Committee meeting of the year took place October 12-15 at the Walker Center in Auburndale, MA. The meeting of the People of Color Advisory Council took place October 11. The meetings went very well, and focused on handling post-youth-council business, community building to be an effective leadership team, and racial caucusing around identity development and anti-racist organizing. We discussed the Consultation process and Steering Committee provided specific feedback for the Summit. Brian Acevedo was selected as the Steering Committee member to help select General Assembly Youth Caucus staff. The whole Steering Committee came into the Youth Office one evening to call all the Youth Council members, with specific information to share, and questions to ask.

Planning for the upcoming Youth Council will kick off at the next meeting, set to take place at Pickett and Eliot January 11-14. For that meeting, both racial caucuses on the Steering Committee (people of color and white) will be meeting one day in advance to allow further time for racial identity development and constituent organizing.

Chrysalis Training Program

This fall the Youth Office managed two Spirituality Development Conference, six Basic Advisor Trainings, one Advanced Advisor Training and two Chaplain Trainings. There are eight trainings scheduled in the near future, including three Groundwork trainings (youth and young adult anti-racism trainings).

This year, the Chrysalis Training of Trainers will be held for the Leadership Development Conference and the Groundwork Youth and Young Adult Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression training. The lead trainers for the Leadership Development Conference training are Alice Manos and Craig Block. The planning meeting for the Leadership Development Conference will be in January. The lead trainers for the Groundwork training are Jason Lydon, Laura Manning, Joseph Santos-Lyons, Elandria Williams and Jazmin Rosado. The planning meeting for the Groundwork training was held in December. Both Trainings of Trainers will be held over Memorial Day weekend at a new Unitarian Universalist Camp and Conference center just outside of San Antonio Texas called U Bar U.

Youth Social Justice Work

The planning for the Youth Social Justice Training is very exciting, and coming along well. Lead trainers have been selected. They are Kendra Joseph-Rodgers, Ysaye McElroy, and Ella Henry. This is the first year that there will be an apprentice lead trainer (Ella Henry), with a goal of increased leadership development. The pre-site meeting for the training took place December 1-3 in New Orleans. The meeting went wonderfully, and we have an incredible leadership team for the conference. The specific schedule will be finalized by early January, and workshop leaders are currently being recruited. The Youth Social Justice Training itself will be in New Orleans from February 22nd through 26th. It will focus on how inequities in the education systems exacerbated the

tragedy after Hurricane Katrina. Youth will leave with tools to help support education reform in New Orleans as well as to examine the education system in their communities.

Other exciting things going on in the YRUU Social Justice world are the election of a new Working Action Manager, and the publication of the first edition of the Social Justice Newsletter. The YRUU Steering Committee elected George Brown as the Working Action Manager. Chris Michell, the Continental Social Action Coordinator, compiled the first ever edition of Social Justice Times. Planning is currently underway to make Education Reform and Multiculturalism a strong force and focus.

General Assembly Youth Caucus

General Assembly Youth Caucus planning is moving along. The Youth Caucus schedule has been confirmed. There will be youth-focused programming open to both youth and adults at every programming section of General Assembly. Youth Caucus will emphasize anti-racism, healthy community, consent and social justice this year. Youth caucus deans Jenny Lotze and Bart Frost are also working with YRUU Leadership to help organize youth to take part in the Open Space Technology sessions happening at General Assembly this year.

Support of Youth Identity Networks

Most of the Youth Office traveled to St. Paul Minnesota for the annual DRUUMM (Diverse and Revolutionary UU Multi-Cultural Ministries) and ARE (Allies for Racial Equity) Conferences. Youth Office staff met with youth and adult leadership of both of these organizations to discuss how to better support Youth of Color and white youth who are working on forming an anti-racist identity.

A conference call for queer youth and young adults took place in November to talk about forming a youth and young adult queer caucus. The goal is to have youth and young adult programming at this year's Interweave Convocation that will take place the first weekend of February 2007. The dialogue brought out a lot of energy for organizing this caucus.

Transitions in the Youth Office

After serving in the Youth Office since the beginning of August, Youth Ministry Associate Kat Manker-Seale decided that working in the Youth Office was not a good fit for her. Kat decided to move back to Arizona and pursue singing, art and social justice work that she is connected with in Flagstaff. The Youth Office wishes Kat luck in her new endeavors. Jesse Jaeger is working on a plan to make sure that the work is covered. If there are further questions about that please feel free to contact either Jesse or Judith Frediani.

Lifespan Faith Development

Travel Report

January 2006 Board of Trustees Meeting

Judith A. Frediani, Director of LFD

January 20 Clara Barton District Milton, MA

Tracey L. Hurd, Children and Families Programs Director

March 8-10 (tentative) Family Matters Task Force Retreat Boston, MA

Sarah Gibb Millspaugh

Jan. 29-Feb.1 UUMA/LREDA Retreat Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

February 22-24 Contemporary Worship Conference San Diego, CA

Jesse Jaeger , Youth Programs Director

Jan 19 – 21 Leadership Development TOT Boston, MA

Feb 2 – 4 Southwest District Consultation Dallas, TX

Feb 9 – 11 Florida District Consultation Clearwater, FL

Feb 21 – 26 Youth Social Justice Training New Orleans, FL

Mar 8 – 11 Youth Consultation Taskforce Meeting Boston, MA

Mar 14 – 18 YRUU Steering Committee Meeting Boston, MA

Apr 12 – 15 General Assembly Pre-Site Portland, OR

Apr 27 – 29 Joseph Priestley Dis. Consultation Harrisburg, PA

May 18 – 21 Canadian Unitarian Council ACM Vancouver, BC

May 25 – 28 Chrysalis Training of Trainers San Antonio, TX

Jun 18 – 26 General Assembly Portland, OR

Laura Manning , Youth Ministry Associate

Feb 8-11 Interweave Convocation Atlanta, GA

Feb 21-26	Youth Social Justice Training	New Orleans, LA
Mar 14 – 18	YRUU Steering Committee Meeting	Boston, MA
Mar 24 – 28	SEAT Training	Washington DC
Apr 12 – 15	General Assembly Pre-Site	Portland, OR
Jun 18 – 26	General Assembly	Portland, OR

Beth Dana , Youth Ministry Associate

Jan 16-19	The Arts in Youth Ministry-PSR	Berkeley, CA
Feb 2-4	Metro NY District Consultation	Metro NY District
Feb 9-11	Interweave Convocation	Atlanta, GA
Feb 22-26	Youth Social Justice Training	New Orleans, LA
Mar 8-11	Task Force on Youth Ministry Meeting	Boston, MA
Mar 14-18	YRUU Steering Committee Meeting	Boston, MA
Apr 27 – 29	Joseph Priestley Dis. Consultation	Harrisburg, PA
May 19	NH/VT and NED Consultation	Ferry Beach, ME
Jun 18 – 26	General Assembly	Portland, OR