



UNITARIAN  
UNIVERSALIST  
ASSOCIATION OF  
CONGREGATIONS

# Annual Program Fund QUARTERLY

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Stewardship Sermon 2  
Award

UU University, 2  
Portland, OR

Story of Generosity: 3  
First Unitarian Soci-  
ety of Plainfield, NJ

Stewardship and 4  
Our Youth

Story of Generosity: 4  
First Unitarian Uni-  
versalist Society of  
Middleboro, MA

## DID YOU KNOW:

- Your congregation is one of 1,042 other member congregations
- The Annual Program Fund is a way for congregations to support and to remain in covenant with one another
- Contributions given through the APF are returned to congregations in the form of programs and services

## Our First Issue!

Welcome to the first issue of the *Annual Program Fund QUARTERLY*! As your congregation's Treasurer, Minister, Administrator, Board Chair or other party interested in the Annual Program Fund, you'll want to be sure you are kept informed.

You'll probably want to know about the current procedures and deadlines. You may also need to know whom to contact if you have a question. Stories related to congregational giving or articles on congregations in your Association may strike your interest. Knowledge of what programs and services are available to your congregation can help your congregation to thrive. We want you to know that your APF contributions are hard at work!

Your congregation is one of 1,042 congregations that have joined in a covenant with one another, pledging to support one another and to help each other grow and retain a place for Unitarian Universalism in our world. The Annual Program Fund plays a major role in helping congregations achieve that goal. Contributions



**The Annual Program Fund Committee and Annual Program Fund Assistant**

made to APF are returned to you in forms of services and programs, such as Ministry and Professional Leadership resources, the Welcoming Congregation Program, youth programs, Advocacy and Witness programs, District Grants and the *UU WORLD*, just to name a few.

We hope that you will find this newsletter to be informative and a valuable resource for you. Please let us know if you have any questions or suggestions—we love hearing from you!

In faith and in association,

Melissa Ferris

## Membership Certification

Congregation Leaders--It's time to complete the Annual Certification of Membership Report for Fiscal Year 2008!

The UUA By-laws require that all member congregations complete this annual report on or before February 1<sup>st</sup>. The report form is found online at <http://www.uua.org/congregation/> and can be accessed 24 hours a day, for your convenience.

The information your congregation provides is used as the official membership number in the UUA databases, for the annual UUA Directory, and for calculation of the annual requested contributions to our Annual Program Fund. Congregations must be certified annually in order to send voting delegates to the General Assembly.

## Funding Our Faith

As of mid-January, member congregations have generously contributed over \$3 million to the UUA's Annual Program Fund, putting us about half-way to meeting our goal for the year.

The Annual Program Fund provides nearly half of the undesignated funding for the annual operating budget, supporting our mission and liberal religious presence in the wider world, our organizational infrastructure, and our resource and program development.

For more resources on congregational stewardship, fundraising consultation, and the funding of our faith, visit: <http://www.uua.org/giving/apf>, <http://www.uua.org/cde/fundraising/>, and <http://www.uua.org/bookstore/index.php>. For more information about the Annual Program Fund, contact Laurel Amabile, Director of the APF, [LAabile@uua.org](mailto:LAabile@uua.org); 617-948-6513.

## Stewardship Sermon Award— Deadline for submissions is fast approaching!

The Stewardship Sermon Award was established in 1984 and is given annually for the sermon judged most effective in exploring and promoting financial support of our Unitarian Universalist faith. This \$1,000 award is co-sponsored by the Annual Program Fund (APF), the Unitarian Universalist Ministers' Association (UUMA) and the Liberal Religious Educators' Association (LREDA).

All professional leaders, including those in their second year of professional study or beyond, are invited to submit a sermon on the topic of financial stewardship in our faith that has been delivered between January 1, 2006 and February 11, 2007.

Due to changes in the General Assembly 2007 program schedule, the sermon will not be delivered dur-

ing the General Assembly. Instead, the award recipient will be asked to submit a recording of their sermon to be produced on CD for wider distribution and recognition.

All sermon submissions should be sent to Melissa Ferris, APF Assistant, [apf@uua.org](mailto:apf@uua.org), by the deadline of February 14, 2007.

For more details on the submission format and selection process, visit the website: <http://www.uua.org/giving/apf/sermon.html>, or contact Laurel Amabile, Director of the Annual Program Fund, [LAmabile@uua.org](mailto:LAmabile@uua.org) or 617-948-6513.

## Lay Leaders invited to attend UU University



**“UU University is  
the best thing I’ve  
seen the UUA do  
for lay leadership  
in the fifteen years  
I’ve been involved  
with UU leaders.”**

Present and future lay leaders are invited to participate in the 2007 UU University, which will be held June 19-20 in Portland, Oregon.

UU University is a gathering of congregational leaders of all kinds: current and future Board Presidents, trustees, lay leaders, worship leaders, religious education directors, and more. If you are or would like to be a leader in your congregation and if you are dedicated to increasing your knowledge and capacity to serve your congregation, then UU University is for you!

UU University will commence Tuesday morning and offer keynote addresses by Gil Rendle and workshops on *Fostering Our Generosity*, *Growing Our Faith*, and *Sharing Our Leadership*. This one-and-a-half day program will end by midday on Wednesday, and so will not conflict with any

General Assembly events.

This year features Gil Rendle, author of *Leading Change in the Congregation* and *Holy Conversations*, who will give both keynote addresses. Rendle has an extensive background in organizational development, group and systems theory, and leadership development. He frequently consults with congregations on planning, staff and leadership development, and issues of change.

Registration for UU University is separate from General Assembly. Beginning March 1, 2007, registration forms and online registration will be available on the UU University website. The UU University registration fee is \$125, which includes lunch on Tuesday, breakfast on Wednesday, and lunch on Wednesday. Please visit the UU University website, [www.uua.org/uuuniversity](http://www.uua.org/uuuniversity), for registration information and

## Stories of Generosity: Metro New York congregation returns to Fair Share status

*Why has the First Unitarian Society of Plainfield risen to its current status as a Fair Share Honor Congregation after thirteen years of giving at a much lower level?* This was the question posed to congregation leaders Jody Hey, President, and Art Lieberman, Finance Committee Chair. What follows is the story they shared....

“The UUA, our District [Metropolitan New York District], and especially Harry Green, the former Metro New York District Executive, have helped our church through a lot of tough ‘adventures’ over the last several years. They provided us a full level of support and guidance, even though our financial support to the UUA and District had been only at the 50% level.”

At the time of the congregation’s pledge, Art wrote, “We recognized the 100% pledge as our church’s responsibility in being a member of the UUA, because we subscribe to the goals of the UUA and feel a responsibility to financially support the work it does.” Of course, Art admits that the support they’ve received from the UUA and the District over the last 10 years certainly influenced their decision to make a full Fair Share the highest priority in their budget.

The support Art refers to came from the UUA and Metropolitan New York District staff and volunteers. There were simple items, like facilitating Board retreats. And there were the larger “adventures,” like helping them through a few ministerial searches, working through financial difficulties, developing marketing strategies, managing crises with personnel – all being done while the church pledged at only the 50% level.

In addition, a number of congregants have become involved in professional ministry, district leadership, and events like General Assembly. These vocal leaders’ perspectives have inspired and encouraged a heightened awareness and valuing of the wider Unitarian Universalist movement. “We will be a Fair Share Congregation,” insisted past-president Peter Jones, and the Board made it happen, even while sharply cutting other budgeted items.

Becoming a Fair Share congregation reflects not only a stronger commitment to be in right relationship with their Association, but also positions the FUSP as a recipient for grants and loans that could enable them to implement an ambitious marketing plan and do necessary renovations to their historical building facility.



Over the past year, members have engaged in deeper conversations about the congregation’s future: its priorities, its ministries, and its relationships. The Rev. David Leonard has been encouraging and supportive of the congregation’s process of self-examination and visioning. Over the past ten years, the congregation has experienced a gradual drop in membership to a current 178 members from 368 members in 1995. The significant factors impacting the First Unitarian Society’s membership are the changing demographics in their city and surrounding area and several ministerial transitions.

Currently members and friends come to the Plainfield congregation from 41 surrounding communities, with only 18% of their members residing in Plainfield. Despite fewer members on the books, the First Unitarian Society’s pledge income has increased by 12% a year, conveying a high level of hopefulness, commitment, and energy on the part of the membership. It is evident that there is much potential in this congregation to be realized in the months and years to come.

To learn more about the First Unitarian Society of Plainfield, please visit <http://www.fusp.org/>.



**Jody Hey’s daughter, Laurel Roberson and Sue Fertig, both of the First Unitarian Society of Plainfield**

# Stewardship and Our Youth

The children and youth in our congregations can be inspiring models for stewardship within our faith. Their energy, enthusiasm and willingness to help enable them to be good stewards within their communities.

Adults in children's lives can be major influences in how our younger generations perceive being active participants in the world they live. Children who are given a solid foundation for stewardship often continue to be good stewards throughout their lives. In short, when it comes to stewardship, it is never too early to start patterns of generosity.

Generosity toward our congregations is an important way to bring stewardship in closer connection to children's lives. The programs and materials available for UU children would not be possible without the financial generosity of members

and others in affiliation with the congregation. Involving children in congregational financial stewardship can be a way that they begin to take ownership in the church's fiscal state.

We know that children and youth in UU congregations are actively participating in programs and service projects that foster good financial stewardship, and we want to hear about them!

Children learn about stewardship from the adults in their lives



What ways do children and youth in your congregation participate in congregational financial stewardship?

The *Stewardship and Our Youth* section in each issue of the *APF QUARTERLY* will highlight stories of youth participating in financial congregational stewardship. Please share with us your stories and photos! (apf@uua.org)

## Stories of Generosity: First Unitarian Universalist Society maintains strong relationship to the greater denomination

Interview with The Rev. Patricia Tummino, minister of the First Unitarian Universalist Society in Middleboro, MA.

The First Unitarian Universalist Society, a congregation in the Ballou Channing District of 108 adult members and 40 children and youth, has been a steady Fair Share honor society for 18 years. In describing why the congregation has sustained this commitment to generously supporting the funding of our Association for so long, minister Patricia Tummino succinctly states, "We want to keep our Unitarian Universalism as strong as it can be." It is done primarily through the generosity of individual members and friends.



Before Patricia's call to First Unitarian Universalist Society a decade ago, Rev. Elizabeth Tarbox served as their minister. During Elizabeth's ministry the congregation's relationship with

their Unitarian Universalist Association gained strength. The trend continues to the present day and is reflected in the First UU Society's membership development practices.

Before prospective members join the First UU Society, they must be very clearly identified as Unitarian Universalist. The new members are asked to make a separate contribution toward both the Ballou Channing District and the UUA's Annual Program Fund expenses, in addition to any pledge they choose to make to the congregation. Provisions are made for those unable to make that level of contribution at any given time, but the expectations are clear and reasonable.

In addition to a strong and clear Unitarian Universalist identity, the First UU Society has some top-notch staff and programming. Rev. Tummino is joined on staff by Rev. Laurie Bilyeu who serves as the religious education professional, Jeannie Gagne as the Director of Music, and secretary, Valerie Ortelt. The First UU Society has also taken on the exciting new responsibility of being a teaching

congregation, with its fourth intern minister, Elizabeth Gish.

Social Justice activities are central to the First UU Society, and the congregation has worked to compile a list of all the

**"We want to keep our Unitarian Universalism as strong as it can be."**

available social services and agencies in their area. In addition, the First UU Society has received a grant to create a new social justice website for the benefit of the Ballou Channing District congregations. The youth program is quite active as well, and a bridging ceremony was held recently

for the junior youth making the transition into the senior youth program.

The First UU Society is a vital and active community and a strong Unitarian Universalist presence in their area. To learn more, visit the First UU Society's website at: [www.uumiddleboro.org](http://www.uumiddleboro.org).

# Contact Us!

## Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

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[www.uua.org/giving/apf](http://www.uua.org/giving/apf)



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## Annual Program Fund Committee Chairs

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Southwest	Steve Feinstein	<a href="mailto:feinstei@swbell.net">feinstei@swbell.net</a>
St. Lawrence	Betsy Spaulding	<a href="mailto:betsula@usadatanet.net">betsula@usadatanet.net</a>
Thomas Jefferson	Pat Griggs	<a href="mailto:PatGriggs@aol.com">PatGriggs@aol.com</a>

## When Sending Contributions, It's Helpful For Us If You:

1. **Make checks payable to "UUA Annual Program Fund"**
2. **Send all APF checks to our bank lockbox:**

Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations  
Annual Program Fund  
P.O. Box 843153  
Boston, MA 02284-3153

3. **Include statement stubs with your check**
4. **Remember to write your congregation ID on each check**
5. **Keep correspondence separate and mail it to our office location:**

Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations  
Annual Program Fund  
Stewardship and Development  
25 Beacon St.  
Boston, MA 02116

6. **Mail checks for other UU entities to the addresses that correspond those programs. This will prevent checks from being deposited into APF's account and will minimize paperwork and accounting errors**

## APF NOTES

For fiscal year 2006-07, the Fair Share amount per member is \$53.00.

The requested Fair Share is based on the membership number reported as of February 1, 2006.

Fair Share Annual Program Fund contributions mailed by June 1, 2007 will ensure delegates of your congregation receive ribbons at General Assembly.

For fiscal year 2007-08, the Fair Share amount per member will be \$54.00.