

a point of contact where information & energy are exchanged

# Synapse:

by young religious  
unitarian universalists  
(for everyone)

ACTING  
OUT



Vol XVI, Issue II

## December 1998

1 National Social Justice Con  
Application Deadline  
15 NSJC participants notified  
24 Sienna be outta here

## January 1999

1 Nathaniel Klein begins working  
in the Youth Office  
11 Con Con Staff Application  
Deadline  
11 GA Youth Caucus Core  
Staff Application Deadline  
24 Spring *Synapse* Submission  
Deadline  
28-31 Steering Committee meets

# Continental Calendar

## Winter 1998

## February, 1999

27-Mar 2 National Social  
Justice Conference

## March 1999

1 GA Scholarships become  
available  
10 Spring *Synapse* comes out  
12-14 ConCon pre-site  
15 Fall YPS Application Deadline  
15 Youth Council At-Large  
Application Deadline  
15 Position on Appraisal  
Application Deadline

## April 1999

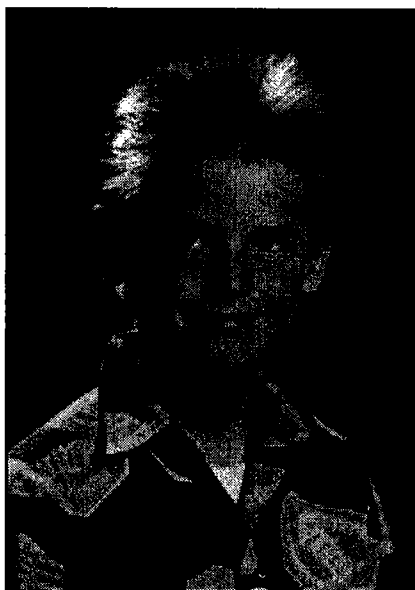
1 ConCon flyer goes out  
8-11 Steering Committee meets  
11 YRUU Sunday  
30 GA Scholarship Application  
Deadline

## May 1999

10 GA Youth Caucus Housing  
Deadline  
15 ConCon Scholarship Deadline

*To anyone who has ever picked their nose before, thought about  
picking their nose, or ever knew someone that was a "nose picker," we  
bring you the newest in the long lineage of YRUU Programs Specialist*

*Ninjas: **Mister G Thanner....***



Nathaniel Klein taking a walk on the wild side. Nathaniel joins the Youth Office Staff in January 1999.

I am at a loss . . . but as they say, "the words are bound to eat me tonight, the lion sleeps tonight." (At least that is what I was led to believe "they said.")

In any case, my name is Mister G Thanner, your own personal & very personable YRUU Programs Specialist. But you can just call me Nathaniel. You can just call me a PSWD "bleary kid," a UCLA art school dropout, a baker boy, a goofy looking fellow with an ear or two & bleach stained T-shirts. Or you can call me Mister G Thanner, your own personal and very personable YRUU Programs Specialist. But the important thing is that you do

call me or write me, 'cause you are the ones that keep this YRUU world rockin'. So drop me a line & say "(fill in your name here) wants . . . . . (fill in your name here) wants fun and games," and you and I will be "reelin' in the taco autograph..." (But I don't suppose this means anything.)

With Love,  
Mister G Thanner  
(YPS Ninja)

**You, too, could be a YPS!**

See Page 27 for more info





# Wink from the editor

So, Austin and I were going through the last couple of issues of *Synapse* and planning this one. All of a sudden we looked at each other, looked at the newsprint in our hands and said, "I don't like this. Do you like this? Let's do something different." And *Synapse* was reborn as the lovely little 'zine in your hot little hands.

Why were we so dissatisfied with the continental publication of YRUU as it's been conceived for the past few years? The reasons reach deep roots into the heart of what I think is wrong with Continental YRUU. With *Synapse*, we have the power to reach every YRUUer out there (there are 10,000 on our database, and we figure that is probably about half of you). And yet, we've been treating *Synapse* as if it only goes out to the YRUUers we happen to know, the "Continental Clique." We've been using *Synapse* to promote Continental programs, report on Continental Programs, and pat ourselves on the back for doing such a fab job. But these programs can only reach a small percentage of you. Most of you continue to do real work of YRUU on a local and district level. It is local youth groups and district conferences that sustain you as youth, even if you get your annual boost at a continental con. And we hope to recognize you and feed you with ideas and inspiration a bit better than we have in the past.

At the same time, the programs, resources, and services we offer aren't worth much if we don't try to reach all of you with them. There are more ways to get involved than ever before in the exciting stuff we do, and there are scholarships and staff positions available to make these events more accessible to all. *Synapse* is still the place to find out about all of these opportunities.

Finally, as someone who's indebted to YRUU for my personal power, I wish there were more ways to take that out into the denomination and the world. I believe that YRUU has a core of justice and a duty to act it out. The theme of this issue is "Acting Out," learning how to take action against systems and powers that dominate our lives. Some of the most effective activists in our movement have written practical guides to how it's done.

I hope you feel how the new *Synapse* is reaching out to you. But this will only work if you reach back. We need your submissions to keep this publication alive. So, have a *Synapse* workshop at your next con or youth group meeting, and send us the articles, poems, doodles, stories, music reviews, cover ideas you dream up. Bust the seams. in Spirit,

Sienna



Thanks to those who submitted cover art, especially Anthony Constant and Emily Leibin.

## About *Synapse*...

*Synapse* is a publication of Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU), the youth organization of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Subscription is free. Four issues per annum. For more information on subscriptions, see page 31.

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*Typos from last issue:*

Kirsten Amann's number is  
(603) 673-7188

and the new YPS works from  
Jan '99 to Dec. '99.

write for **SYNAPSE**  
and we'll dig you.



# spill the basket

## Diversification Nation

Dear Eddie,

I really dug your piece in *Synapse*. "Diversifying" has been on my youth group's collective mind for a long time. There are about four non-white families at my church, so racial diversity has always seemed to be a beautiful and unattainable dream. They say America is most segregated on Sunday morning.

I think the hardest part about diversifying for me is recruiting. It always used to offend me when youth groups from other churches would come knocking.

So recruiting anyone sort of worries me. But I really like your idea of advertising. I had never thought of aggressively marketing my PUUK group (PUUK stands for "Progressive Unitarian Universalist Kids.")

Peace,  
Matthew Riederer



## Hugs

Dear YRUU,

Just a note to let you know that there was a Youth Sunday celebrated on April 20th at our church. The YRUUers planned the "sermon" part of the service around anonymous questions posed to them by the adults in the congregation about life as a UU teenager today. The service was incredible and very well-received. We plan to make it an annual event!

Rev. Jane Dwinell,  
Derby Line, VT

For more information  
on YRUU Sunday,  
see page 19.

Dear Alison and Sienna,

Thanks so much for entertaining and informing us about the purpose of YRUU. The organization really does

impact the community and I would like to become more involved. Alison - the tongue ring was very cool as well. Thanks again.

Sincerely,  
Annie Clark  
First Unitarian Church of Dallas

Annie visited us with her youth group. The Youth Office offers tours of the office on workdays. Call us for details!

## Moving On

Dear *Synapse*,

I read the last issue of *Synapse* with a great deal of mixed emotion.

My history as a YRUUer is long and complicated. The time I've spent involved in the organization has been intense. I've felt the depths of despair and hurt, the depths of joy, hope, love, and anger. Any emotion I've experienced as a YRUUer as gone to the essence of my being and affected me profoundly.

I find it ironic that in the last year or two - the time when I've most needed the strength I've always taken for granted in YRUU - I've been more alone than ever before in my life. Growing up I always thought the UU community would be here for me no matter what. Because I believed this, I gave all I had to the community. My transition into "adulthood" came early, in part due to choice and in part due to circumstance. At 16, when I first left my parents' home, I began my journey away from the YRUU community. This journey overflowed with ambivalence and has been the slowest aspect of my becoming a part of the "adult world." At times it has felt like a part of my soul is being ripped away and at times I've felt at peace in walking away.



I wonder what other YRUUers do when faced with an early experience in the "adult world" whether by choice or by experiences such as teen pregnancy or illness. I suspect most of them, like myself, fade out of the group slowly (and sometimes painfully). Though I've heard discussions on bridging YRUUers who are leaving for college or following another common path in life, I haven't heard any discussion on helping a more silent group of people, who have left non-traditionally as I have. Am I truly the only one?

With Deepest Respect,  
Sierra-Marie Gerely (19)  
Fort Collins, CO



Sierra-Marie,

As a young adult, I acknowledge what a mixed-up crazy thing bridging out can be. And I don't have any answers, I just hope you take the gifts of YRUU out into the "adult world," which surely needs them.

## 'Nuff Said

Dear Editor,

There I was in the Youth Office, when I realized, "Hey! I'm in such close proximity to the editor of *Synapse*, I should write her a letter!" Because, like any logical human being, I realized it would be better to write her than speak to her directly. I just finished reading the last issue of *Synapse* and a couple of things come to mind. Firstly, I really appreciated Galen Moore's article about leaving YRUU. He was right on when he asked jaded YRUUers out there to remember what it's all about. Secondly, how I wish for a more compact format which would fit nicely upon my lap as opposed to the cumbersome and ridiculously large version. Finally, word up to those hardworking YPS people!

Love,  
Art Bass, Portland, OR



Would you like to see the Youth Office regain a bit of their dignity? Then send us letters! We'll be sure to respond and take you seriously!





\* A POINT OF CONTACT WHERE INFORMATION  
AND ENERGY ARE EXCHANGED \*

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## Columns



**Theme:**  
**ACTING OUT**



### Editorial Policy:

Articles for *Synapse* are chosen from among those submitted by Unitarian Universalist youth, adults working with youth, and other interested parties. Articles are chosen on the basis of content and quality, with some preference given to new authors. All written materials are subject to editing before publication, and graphics may be enhanced. The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the editors or the majority readership.

### Submissions Policy:

Each submission must have the submitter's name and address attached. Multiple submissions are accepted.

When submitting photographs, please include the name of the person who took the photo to provide proper credit. Submissions not used will be kept on file for possible use in future issues. Name may be withheld upon request. If you wish to be notified prior to publication, enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

**Cover Art by Matt Moore, All Headers by Claire Cox, Little guys by Nathaniel Klein.**

Compass ..... 6  
*Steering Committee speaks*

Power Shuffle ..... 7  
*Social Action at work*

Backflash ..... 8  
*A look at UU Youth 25 years ago*

Common Cause ..... 9  
*Check out a YRUU-friendly org.*

Trust Walk ..... 12  
*Life after High School*

Soapbox ..... 30  
*Critical Perspectives on YRUU*

Accessibility and Disabilities..... 13  
*by Emily Stainer*

How to Save the World in Three Easy Steps..... 14  
*by Maia Cudhea*

The Last Social Action Hero..... 15  
*by Nathan Staples*

Supporting Students for Change..... 16  
*by Rain Madan*

Wider Horizons..... 18  
*by Natalie Coperley*

### S e c t i o n s

**fishbowl:**

For Adults Practicing  
Ministry with Youth

**p.10**

**Roots** (Local)

Spotlight on YRUU  
Groups at the Local Level

**p.19**

**branches**

Check out what the district  
next door is up to

**p. 21**

**campy**

Continental Events,  
Initiatives, and  
Opportunities

**p. 25**

## o o o o Sparks o o o o

Dedicated to the celebration of UU youth spirituality and the contributions youth make to UU congregations. Send us your sparks: poems, homilies, illustrations, stories about your spirituality.

Katy Beam...p.7  
Jennifer Channin...p.11  
Devin Haas...p.13  
David Butka...p.14  
Katy Flom...p.15  
Brandon Welfel...p.32

### NEXT SYNAPSE DEADLINE:

**JAN 24, 1999!**

Send to: UUA Youth Office  
Synapse Submission  
25 Beacon St  
Boston, MA 02108  
or email [yruu@uua.org](mailto:yruu@uua.org)

# compass

yru steering committee speaks



*Eroca Nicols*

After several bouts with a wide variety of transportation modes, I found myself smack dab in the middle of the Boston Common (if I had the directions right and got off at the right "T" stop). It was spitting misty rain as I made my way up the path, through the trees to Beacon Street.

After walking for a few minutes in a humid, sticky sweat, I arrived at the P&E B&B (c'mon, you know you love acronyms) with wet Converse and a sleepy head. I was warmly welcomed, and the sweet people who work there offered me a place to shower and change. I imagine that it had something to do with the way I smelled after over nine hours of transit. So I rinsed the stink off me, and returned downstairs.

From that moment on, an exchange of ideas ensued. For three and a half straight days. No joke, the moment I was greeted by the rest of Steering Committee, the nastiness of spit, mist, and jet lag, the stickiness of humid sweat and transit confusion, all vanished into oblivion. They were promptly replaced by new ideas and job jots, meaningful discussions and visioning. The sum of all these parts is a little ditty I like to call "the 1998 Fall Steering Committee meeting."

Oh yeah! Hell of business went down, for example WE:

- ~ selected a new YRUU Programs Specialist!!
- ~ evaluated Youth Council and ConCon
- ~ discussed the new and improved GA Youth Caucus Staff
- ~ re-worked the Youth Council At-large job descriptions
- ~ had visions of YRUU in the new millennium and beyond
- ~ and oh so much more.

All in all, '98/'99 Steering Committee got our feet wet, literally and figuratively. Word.

*Eroca Nicols*

Continental YRUU Steering Committee

## Steering Committee

*A brief clue as to what Eroca is talking about*

The continental YRUU Steering Committee is charged to implement the decisions of Youth Council, to oversee the work of the Youth Office, and to evaluate and select staff for continental programs like NSJC, ConCon, and GA Youth Caucus.

The Steering Committee consists of one youth Position on Appraisal selected by the Youth Office, one liaison from the UUA Board of Trustees, five youth elected at Youth Council, and one adult elected at Youth Council.

The 1998-99 Steering Committee:

Phyllis Daniel, *UUA Trustee*  
Greg Faron, *Metro NY Rep.*  
Mandy Jacobson, *Position on Appraisal*

Tera Little, *Adult At-Large*  
Eroca Nicols, *Pacific Central Rep.*  
Geoff Schwartz, *Canadian At-Large*  
Emily Stainer, *Cont'l Social Action Coord.*

Laura Trumbull, *Michigan Rep.*

## Interested in joining the Continental Steering Committee?

The **Position On Appraisal** will be open this summer. It is a two-year youth position on the Steering Committee with a focus on a specific goal.

To apply, send a letter of intent to the Youth Office detailing what you would like to change about YRUU and how you would go about doing it as a Steering Committee member.

Also send a letter of reference and a brief history of your YRUU activity.

**Application Deadline:**

**3/15/99**



# Power shuffle

Ben Kidder tells us



## Why Ska Sucks

Katy Beam

Cons have been more than just a fun little weekend for me. Not only have they been a sanity saver, they've been a life saver. I know that the world isn't perfect, and that not everyone is nice. But at cons, I can believe that this is true, if only for a weekend. No one screws you over, instead they hug you. I can feel safe at cons. And more than that, I can feel loved. Cons are where I originally learned that I could be loved. That I wasn't a freak, I was just being myself. I learned that being me is OK. I don't have to pretend or try hard to be someone, I just have to let the true me shine through. I made all my closest and best friends at cons. I learned that I am capable of not only being loved, but loving back. I learned that hugs are the most healing thing that anyone can give or receive. I learned that crying is OK. I learned that being childish is a lot of fun. I learned that I am a Unitarian Universalist in my heart, mind, and soul. I learned that life is worth living.

Write about your fabo social action project or perspective on living the Principles. We'll put it in the Power Shuffle, next time!

I am going to tell you about the worst kind of music ever randomly spat out of a "musical" instrument: ska. The problem with ska is that it is basically a copy of punk except with horns added on. It's the same old story: big business thinks we'll buy anything with a "new ingredient." Speaking of big business, all ska sounds like it is mass-produced. A machine could easily be turning out all of the songs now being credited to "bands."

Okay, you can put away the mail bombs now. I don't really hate ska, I just wanted to prove a point. There are some of you out there that were about to hunt me down and slit my throat, and I think that demonstrates what I am really trying to say. We Unitarian Universalist youth pride ourselves in our acceptance of each other and our willingness to be diverse, but do we really have those qualities? These days ska is a very popular kind of music among Unitarian Universalists, and there is nothing wrong with that, but when those who have different musical tastes voice their opinions, they are often treated very rudely by ska supporters. Don't get me wrong, I'm not picking on ska or ska supporters. This is just one of many examples of intolerance that I have noticed at conferences and within my own youth group.

I have heard people complaining countless times about other social groups: the gangstas, the jocks, the cowboys, and (of course) the trendies as if we were better than they are. One of the main complaints made is that the members of these groups are "all the same" and "don't accept people different from them." Doesn't that attitude contradict itself? It's as if we are saying, "We can't accept all those other people because they aren't accepting of other people like we are!" Both Unitarians and others seem to think that acceptance is good, as long as it is acceptance of themselves. It's true that other people should accept us for who we really are, but do we ever think about accepting them for who they really are? In our quest for individuality and diversity, have we found conformity and intolerance?

*Ben Kidder is a youth from the Mountain Desert District*



# backlash: where were we twenty five years ago??

## The LRY Energy Crisis

by Wind Creek

This article appeared in one of the first editions of *People Soup*, the publication of Continental LRY, 25 years ago. Backlash reminds us of our history as a movement.

NOVEMBER 21, 1973 - Last night, a revolutionary discussion with two other LRYers created a number of inner conflicts concerning my involvement in the people's struggle against oppression in the United States. I don't have to reiterate all of the ways that the establishment causes strife in America, nor do I feel it necessary to remind anyone of the specific things in this nation that are worth preserving. If any new system we create is to be better than the present one, we must eliminate the bad without destroying the good. I offer some of my own conclusions here in hopes that they may help some of my LRY sisters and brothers to cope with similar conflicts within themselves.

Long an advocate of non-violence, I had a question placed before me which shook my composure a little. What if a violent revolution were to come about? At present, no such revolt could occur, much less succeed. However, with the energy shortage just beginning, prices skyrocketing, and depression seeming more and more inevitable, in two or three years the already suffering poor people will have increased enough in number, anger, and a sense of purpose to make a violent revolution a very real possibility. If it happens, how could I stand by and let my brothers and sisters be shot down by government

troops? By not taking a stand, I would be contributing to their defeat. Still, how could I morally take part in such violence?

I took my problem to another LRY friend and we came to the conclusion that there had to be a third side. A side which is the rejection of all forms of violent revolution, and which would dedicate all of its energies to bringing about peaceful and constructive changes before a violent revolution becomes inevitable.

No matter who wins a violent confrontation, there will be mass persecution of those who are sympathetic to the losers. The result could be either a police state or total anarchy. I cannot see a violent revolution in America having a non-violent or peaceful aftermath. Therefore, this third side must be actively involved in the raising of consciousness to a level which would circumvent the necessity of violence; which provides a force stronger than anger, greed, and hate; a non-violent revolution of giving instead of taking.

We in LRY seem content to believe that we are already involved in such a revolution. I contend that too many of us are not. To be part of such a revolution, we must live it. We must provide an example that is a viable alternative to violence. Each of us must strive to relate better and to overcome

spiritual, mental, and emotional violence as well as physical violence. We must become open-minded enough in our dealings with one another that we can be peaceful even in disagreement. Most important, we must be real and stop playing games which rip each other off.

Collectively, LRY has the potential to be a major part of a non-violent, consciousness-raising revolution. Presently there is a great deal of controversy surrounding whether LRY is supposed to be concentrating its energies toward such a collective effort, or whether it is to be a place where people just have a good time and grow. I think we can do both, but I also feel that it is time we established some priorities. When we cease to have a collective purpose, we cease to have collective energy. Now more than ever before, our collective energy can help bring changes, and our energy will be needed more and more in the months and years to come. I feel we must all work together to become an example of a non-violent, consciousness-raising, love-based community which will provide an alternative attitude to life, and hopefully an alternative lifestyle altogether. Let us work together to become one.

**Write for Synapse,  
Write for the  
Future!!**





# common cause profile of a YRUU friendly organization

We decided to do it. YRUU took the plunge. We sent one of our own, a YRUU Steering Committee member, armed only with a plane ticket and a pack of YRUU resources, into a strange new world of Young Adults: the Continental Unitarian Universalist Young Adult Network's (C\*UUYAN) Steering Committee Meeting. Huge changes are afoot in the continental young adult movement, so now more than ever is a time for our two organizations to work in conjunction. Making the concrete step of having representatives at both YRUU and C\*UUYAN Steering Committees is a fantastic start. It gave the organizations a chance to pool their knowledge. At the Young Adult meeting, the first steps were made towards a radical restructuring of C\*UUYAN and YA/CM (Young Adult/ Campus Ministries Office, the UUA's answer to young adult programming) to eventually merge them into one super organization -- a UUA budgeted, sponsored organization that still holds dear C\*UUYAN's history and many successes. That's the goal. As you can imagine, YRUU's structural model was a huge asset to the discussion. That's only one example of the power that shared information can have. It was, in many ways, a glorious synthesis. However, C\*UUYAN still has some serious work to do. Like so many aspects of UUism, they need some heightened awareness on how to be intentionally inclusive of youth. This is an issue most important for C\*UUYAN because youth (ages 18-20) are a part of their organization! Drinking, inclusive programming, and unintentional ageism are issues that strongly need to be addressed. But don't let me paint only a negative picture. C\*UUYAN is at a point of transition, and growing pains are to be expected. Everyone agrees that this much needed change is a bit of an uphill battle, but I have faith in the powerful, visionary leaders to metamorphose the Young Adult movement into something truly great.

There's a lot of work to be done, and yes, they sucked me in. I'm now on several of their planning and visioning committees. How did it happen? I found the inspiring and joyful part of young adult work and discovered that I didn't want to let go.

*Mandy Jacobson is a youth from Pittsburgh and Steering Committee's liaison to C\*UUYAN*

## CONT'L UU YOUNG ADULT NETWORK

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The Continental UU Young Adult Network will be hosting OPUS'99 from August 9 to August 15 in Portland, Oregon. This gathering is for fun, building relationships, exploring worship styles and experiences, and workshops. Summit, a gathering of District Representatives and other young adult leaders for three days of workshops, strategic planning and networking, will occur right before Opus. If you are interested in either event, contact Joey Lyons.

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# fishbowl: for adults who practice ministry with youth

## WISH List for advisors and youth

*Stuff to do when you can't think of anything to do ~ Jen Harrison*

Here in the Youth Office, we have often heard from youth and advisors in local churches that they are starving for ideas of things to do in their youth groups. In every issue of *Synapse*, we hope to have some ideas that will help inspire a group in a slump. These ideas come from youth and adults all over the continent. We have divided them into the "Five Components of Balanced Youth Group Programming." Look at these categories and see which one(s) your youth group excels in already. Many youth groups are quite strong on the Having Fun category, but leave out Worship. Other youth groups practically run the Social Action Committee at church, but have no opportunity to learn about our great UU history of social action.

### **W** is for Worship

The word *worship* means "to give worth." There are few places in our modern world where youth feel cherished and of value. Worship created by and for youth is an integral part of youth programming. In our faith community and especially in our youth groups, "we need not think alike to love alike." Some youth groups are forever having fun and doing great social action projects but mention the word "worship" or "spirituality" and everyone starts squirming and groaning. Let's have faith we can keep the R in YRUU.

*Gather a bunch of random objects to present to the youth group. For example: 10 coat hangers, 5 marshmallows, a ball of string, and 25 safety pins. Challenge the youth group to come up with a meaningful worship that incorporates all the objects involved. This activity can help a group incorporate worship into the youth group in a fun way and may also provide a starting point about the meaning and importance of worship to the group.*

### is for Intellectual Stuff

In other words, the learning part of YRUU. We believe in the use of reason and the search for the truth. Our youth groups provide a place for youth to test out their increasing capability to think abstractly. Youth have told us that they want some kind of organized learning to happen in their youth groups. They don't want to sit and be lectured at, but they do want to be challenged to think creatively about who they are as people and what they believe. Youth are curious about the history and theology of Unitarian Universalism. Many youth come to YRUU with friends and didn't grow up in the church. These youth enjoy the safe community of YRUU, but don't know much about Unitarian Universalism. In the future, the "fishbowl" will contain workshop ideas that have been field-tested at youth conferences and rallies.

The following questions have worked well in our University Unitarian Church senior high youth group. They have provided the jumping-off place for some lively debate.

*\*What is the sunset trying to say to me?*

*\*How would my life change if all my possessions could be carried in my two hands?*

*\*Rabbi Hillel wrote, "The essence of Judaism is, Love thy neighbor." What is the essence of Unitarian Universalism?*

*\*What are the Top Ten Ways You Know You've Spotted a UU?*

*\*Think of yourself...your talents and your assets...as a garden. What are the weeds in your garden? What needs tending to?*

*\*What do you fear? How do you protect yourself from your fears?*

*\*If Moses had been a UU, what might the Ten Commandments be?*

*\*Should parents be held responsible when kids break the law?*



## S is for Social Action

Our history reminds us we are a faith of deeds, not creeds. We may think and believe all the right things, but if we do not act on our beliefs, what meaning do they have? Youth have the energy, enthusiasm, and idealism to really put our faith into action.

See the many ideas in the "Act Out" section, especially page 13.

## L is for Leadership

"The things kids say and do today" are often prophetic words and deeds, if adults would just listen and watch. YRUU encourages the model of youth empowerment. This does not mean adults sit back and watch youth at work. This means that adults support youth in the development of their leadership skills and participate in youth group activities as partners, sometimes taking on a leadership role, sometimes participating in the youth group as equal members in a unique adult role. An advisor's job is finding an appropriate balance between leading, advising, and participating in youth group activities.

*"At our YRUU we have grown from a small, largely adult run group to a youth empowered organization. At our first meeting of the year, the youth decided that with the size of our group growing from about four to thirty active youth that we needed clear-cut leadership positions of responsibility. Here's what they came up with: 'Weekling'-Actually one of the most important leadership positions. Responsible for the planning and running of our Sunday programs. 'Eventor'-Responsible for overseeing the events planned at the church (sleep-over, dances, coffee houses, YRUU services at the church). 'Tripper'-Responsible for trips and activities away from the church (ropes courses, campouts, pilgrimages to Boston, ski trips, etc). 'Con Artist'- Responsible for getting youth together for District Cons and for organizing our own annual Conference. 'Money Bags'-Responsible for fundraisers and expenses of planned events. 'Big Mouth'-Responsible for communication with youth phone trees, newsletter. 'Bridger'-Responsible for communications with other church members, parents, DRE, and minister. 'DYSC Jockey'-Responsible for keeping members informed of District, YAC, or in our case District Youth Steering Committee, and Continental events. As you can see, we have lots of leadership positions. These leaders are responsible for getting other youth to help them and work closely with adults."*

## H is for Having Fun

Bonding, community building, goofing off, hangtime, chillin' out, whatever...call it what you like, but it is certain that a youth group that has fun together, stays together and grows together. You've just gotta have it.

*Here's a youth group activity that is kind of like a scavenger hunt but involves getting bigger and bigger stuff. You divide the group into teams of 3-5 youth and you give each of them a small object, something like a cotton ball, a bead, or a chopstick. Then each team goes out into the neighborhood and goes door to door trying to exchange their objects for larger and larger objects. For example, you start with a paperclip, then you exchange it for a yogurt container, which you trade for an old record player, which then gets traded for a giant plastic lawn chair. Set a time limit of 1 or 2 hours and see what you get. Many good stories come out of this activity.*

Jennifer Channin

Close your eyes. Envision your entire body, each mechanism working together, an unceasing process to sustain the life which courses through your veins. Relax, starting with the tips of your toes. Imagine each of the nerves in your feet and feel with your skin the texture of your shoes. Now your ankles. Let your joints be loose. Now your legs. Feel the texture of your clothing or the motion of the air. Follow the movement of your blood into your abdomen and through your sexual organs and through your digestive organs, each working to sustain life. Feel the air touching your fingers. Let it stimulate the hairs on your wrists and arms. Follow the air up over your shoulders and your neck. Breathe in the air, slowly, deeply. Feel it fill your lungs, enter your blood, travel to every far end of your body, in a constant cycle of creation and death and renewal.

*The Youth Advisory is now the Fishbowl, a place for the support and appreciation of advisors and part of the new quarterly Synapse.*



# trust walk: post-high & bridging youth

I did not find adjusting to college life difficult, at least not religiously or intellectually. College offers a host of new experiences, but new experiences are what I want, whether they are good or bad. However, the more I think about transitioning into college, the more I realize that being a UU has played a role in that process. I did not think about this before because so often it is hard to separate being UU from just being me. I tend to forget how much of who I am has been affected by being raised UU. When I look back, though, its influences are clear.

Originally from New Haven, CT, I've attended a UU church since I was four. Consequently I've enjoyed/endured the complete UU RE experience from kindergarten to LRY (yes, in New Haven we still call it LRY). When I graduated and said goodbye to my congregation, they gave all the seniors Jefferson Bibles. This tradition was not started because we all love the Jefferson Bible, but because of what the book represents. Jefferson made his Bible by sitting down with the New Testament, a pair of scissors and a pot of glue, and by cutting and pasting together a New Testament that made sense to him. Symbolically, we as seniors were supposed to go out into the world with our "scissors" and our "pot of glue" and build our own theology. Leaving high school, that was what being a Unitarian meant to me. It was about an individual search for truth and meaning in life. Therefore, the most important thing for me about being a UU was being open to new things and having enough confidence in myself that I could dive into new ideas and experiences without ever losing my own identity. Having this attitude, I realize now, has greatly helped my transition to college and expanded what I have been able to do. Because of it I have actively sought out new experiences, new people, and new ideas.

Sometimes I ask myself, if I had not been UU, would I have ever given Bible Study a chance, and would I have

been confident enough to evaluate it on my own terms? Would I ever have gone to a Hare Krishna temple and been open to another way of seeing the world? Would I have been able to question myself and learn so much about who I am? For myself, the answer is no, or at least not as successfully, or as completely. I'm not trying to say that non-Unitarians don't have new, enlightening experiences, that they don't question themselves and their world, because of course they do. These are the experiences that college is really about, most students at this age start thinking about such things. However, I do feel that Unitarian Universalism, with its tradition of openness, makes having those experiences easier, less foreign, and in general more likely.

If I admit that being a UU has changed my experience at college, I must also admit that college has changed my experience as a UU. They say you never realize you have something until it's gone. Well, I never realized there was a whole other side to being a UU until I left it behind. I am talking about the idea of Unitarian Universalism as a faith community. I left my childhood community when I came to Tufts, and only then did I feel its importance. Part of the richness and excitement of my experience here at Tufts came from finding a new faith community, a group of people, both Unitarian and non-Unitarian, who I could share myself with and who felt comfortable sharing with me. I realized that my concept of being a UU when I left high school was incomplete. I still believe that a UU is someone on a search for truth and meaning; however, I now think a UU is also someone who wishes to share that search with others. We choose to come together in groups large and small, we choose to share our experiences painful and joyful, we acknowledge that we are not alone. This is why we are an organized religion and not merely a bunch of people who approach life in a similar way. I feel my own need for this community now as strongly as I did my need for the search; they are equally important to me as parts of my religion.

---

*Matthew Bruce is currently a sophomore at Tufts University.*



## THEME SECTION: ACT OUT



### To-Do List from your C\*SAC



1. Familiarize yourself with social action organizations in your area
2. Attend your congregation's Social Action Committee meeting or create a committee if one doesn't already exist.
3. Write your Congressperson or Minister of Parliament about your beliefs.
4. The next time you hear a racist, sexist, homophobic, or anti-people with disabilities joke or slang word that makes you mad, *tell someone*.
5. The next time you see a homeless person, ask yourself "Why?"
6. Take a child who is going through a family problem to the park for the afternoon.
7. Give gifts that were not tested on animals.
8. Question the sources of your information about the world. How do people and governments in power influence the media?
9. Support local and small businesses.
10. Donate your old books/magazines to a hospital or jail.

Devin Haas

There is a place within each of us where our conscious mind comes to an end and our unconscious spirit begins.  
Where we exist only as energy.  
Only as the pure, simple essence of life.  
Find that place within yourself.  
Feel it flowing through your body.  
Feel it filling you,  
Engulfing you.  
Notice the amount of power constantly within you as a living being.

### Accessibility and Disabilities YRUU Social Action Theme for 1998-1999

*In an effort to extend inclusiveness and serve more UU and non-UU youth, Youth Council encourages YRUU to take a critical look at its unwritten policies on people with disabilities.*

How will this theme be put into action in the coming year? Individual YRUUers (youth and adults) can examine their behavior and personal feelings relating to people with disabilities; local youth groups and districts can examine how welcoming our communities are to people with disabilities. If you are interested in pursuing this issue, here are some suggestions:

1. Spend some time thinking about encounters you may have had with people with disabilities or different abilities from your own, and how you could improve those interactions.
2. Examine your congregation for physical accessibility to people with varying kinds of disabilities.
3. Find out if your congregation or district has a "Committee on Accessibility" and ask them questions or help them out with a project.
4. Read That All May Worship, and From Barriers to Bridges, two books put out by the National Organization on Disability about religious communities. Available through the UUA Bookstore. (Call 1-800-215-9076 for a catalog.)
5. Request the newly developed YRUU resource on accessibility and disabilities from your Social Action Coordinator, the C\*SAC, or the Youth Office. This resource is perfect for districts, local groups, and individuals, and includes possible curricula, worship resources, and new ways to think about this issue.
6. Invite a speaker to a youth group meeting or conference to address this issue.
7. Think of your own ways to help raise awareness of this issue, and let the Continental Social Action Coordinator know what you come up with!

*Emily Stainer is the Continental Social Action Coordinator. Want her job? Check out the Continental Canopy, page 24.*

**WRITE FOR SYNAPSE  
OR FACE THE  
CONSEQUENCES!  
LOVE THE EDITORS.**






## Maia Cudhea

So you're still not convinced, eh? I see, you're swamped for time. Getting by in school, managing work, trying to have a bit of a social life; there's only 24 hours in a day! Why not start by setting aside one hour a week? Anyone can find one hour a week, and trust me, once you start feeling the rewards, you'll be able to make more time.

something that makes you passionate. Then, do a little research; find out what the current state of the situation is. Maybe spend a little time at the (gasp!) library doing some digging, or contact UUSC or your Social Action Coordinator. Can't find a group working

 David Butka

Down the road we travel.  
Down the road we travel within  
ourselves.  
We try to find ourselves and  
what we are.  
We learn in groups.  
We learn alone.  
We question .  
We answer.  
We travel within ourselves  
making promises to change what  
we are and where we stand.  
We travel past the physical body.  
Down the road, past our mind.  
Beyond is our heart.  
We travel this long journey within  
for answers within our spirit.  
It is here we encounter our  
promises of past.  
It is in the center where we  
must start,  
Within the spirit we must fulfill  
the promise.

cause, a group, and a plan. Now start working. Write letters, have rallies, do projects, get the press involved. Keep doing the things you care about. Make sure to reward yourself for doing good work. Keep a list of the

Congratulations! You are a youth activist who is changing the world every day!

*Maia is the Social Action Coordinator for SWD.*



# The Last Social Action Hero

Nathan Staples (<http://supernathan.cjb.net>)

Four years ago I was lucky enough to run into my first zine -- "Mr. Rogers Starts an A-Zone." I read the zine over a couple of times. The A stood for autonomous. The idea of an autonomous zone was to have a comfortable, laid-back place for youth to hang out without having to buy a \$3 cup of coffee. I went to one of the meetings. When I got there, the people were just hanging out, eating subs, and talking about what they wanted to do with the A-zone. They all agreed that they wanted to get a low rent building that they could fix up. But that was the only thing they agreed on. Some people just wanted it to be a hang out, others wanted a base for social action projects, a place to bring speakers from out of town, a place where we could bring small bands on tour to, a place where local high school bands could play, a place where we could have a library of anarchist and alternative literature, the list went on and on. So after a while we decided that the space would be whatever the group wanted it to be, and it was. We were able to keep the A-zone open by taking donations from members, putting on \$5 punk shows, putting on multicultural dinners at my church, and whatever else we could think of. While we were open we brought speakers and bands in, had the largest collection of alternative literature in Toledo, provided a place for local youth bands to play and practice, we had our hang-out spot for youth, and mostly we were able to draw together a group of like-minded people who never would have met if not for the A-zone. After a year and a half we had to close our doors due to lack of funding. But none of us could have been disappointed with what we had accomplished.

"Social Action" can be an overwhelming phrase for some. But it doesn't have to be; anyone and everyone can get involved on some level. You can go out and do stuff on your own. Social action can be fun, so gather up a group of friends to help you out. "I don't have any friends." "My friends don't do that sort of stuff." "All my friends were killed in a freak zoo incident." Stop making excuses, you babies. If you can't get your friends involved, try the youth group at your church (or a local UU church.) Ask them what they are involved in. If they say "nothing," then try

joining them and getting them involved. If you want to start a group, it is very easy. Just find a place to hold a meeting (I would suggest getting in touch with your church). Then put out a flyer that says "Free Food" and you will get a nice crowd, mostly consisting of high school and college students.

The first step to becoming socially active is finding out what you want to do. If you find yourself short on ideas, the YRUU web site has several resources on how to do social action <<http://www.uua.org/YRUU>>. The social action group I am currently involved with (T.O.A.L. -- Thinking Out, Acting Loud <<http://toal.cjb.net>>) does work with Food Not Bombs <<http://home.earthlink.net/~foodnotbombs>> and Habitat for Humanity <<http://www.habitat.org>>. You can roll out of bed early one Saturday and go to build with Habitat for Humanity. Or you can go to a Klan rally with a big group of people and bang pots and pans to draw attention away from the rally. Go to an AIDS march, feed the homeless, raise money for a local charity, boycott something, protest something, put on a punk show, join the Peace Corps, put out an underground paper at your school, write to your congressman or representative. Just do something.

*Nathan Staples is a youth from OMD. Write to him at [nstaples@usa.net](mailto:nstaples@usa.net)*

*Living to the Fullest*  
Katy Flom

As I walk through my life, and others,  
I am noticing things never seen before.  
A love as no other appears from behind,  
The things that only made me cry before.  
A stroke against those who hit so hard it stings.  
A million miles from what was making me safe,  
We discover reality, and I know this is what  
I need. Walking fast, we miss a step, make up for  
it twice later. We look our lover in the eye,  
making us safe once again. This is the game.  
We have the rules. But not fully, for most  
we make up as we go along. We do not depend on  
others, but the love we find in them.  
So as I move along, from place to place,  
I say a prayer, and nod to the sky my thanks.





# Supporting Students for Change in Burma

by Rain Madan

Students in Burma are playing a crucial role in leading the struggle for democracy and respect for human rights in their country, a country of 48 million that is currently ruled by one of the most repressive military regimes in the world. Burma's military junta established a totalitarian state in 1988, renamed the country Myanmar, and since then more than 10,000 people have been killed.

In addition, an entire generation of Burmese has been deprived of a proper education, as most colleges and universities in Burma have been closed for seven of the last ten years. Universities were opened briefly this summer and fall for the first time since 1996 when they were closed after peaceful university and high school demonstrations were held. However, during this brief opening, only short refresher courses were given before final exams were held. The students took the opportunity to stage numerous nonviolent demonstrations and protests demanding their right to quality education and democracy. Students who refused to take the

exams in protest were subject to arrest and their families have been harassed and threatened.

While the country suffers from unprecedented levels of social and economic deterioration, the youth of Burma face the future unprepared to

— is a concern that was brought up time and time again. UUSC has, therefore, launched the Campaign for Student Rights in Burma to support Burmese students in their efforts to secure their right to an education and the basic freedoms for their people

as outlined in the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In Burma, only the very rich and powerful have access to quality education by attending foreign or private institutions.

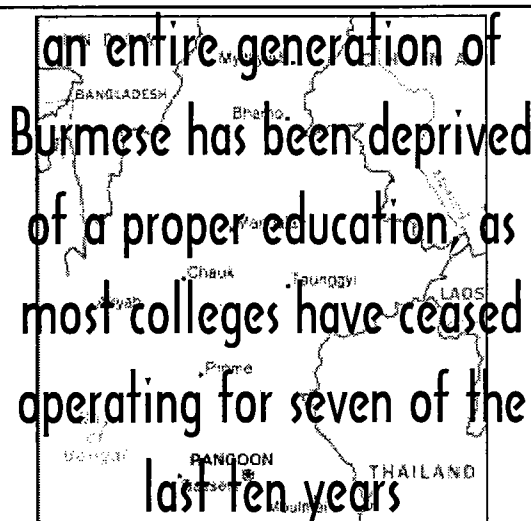
Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, who leads the democracy movement in the country, has expressed support for the students' struggle. This courageous struggle has brought international attention to the atrocities that the Burmese citizens face on a

daily basis yet their efforts have exposed the students to further repression by the military regime.

## The Campaign for Student Rights in Burma

Burmese students in exile have appealed to students in other nations to support their struggle. UUSC is reaching out to network with national student organizations and local UU youth groups to build support and solidarity for the Burmese cause.

University students and UU youth



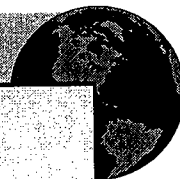
be productive, empowered citizens. The only viable employment options for young people in Burma now are in the military, as taxi drivers, or in the nation's declining service industry.

## An International Call for Help

UUSC's program associate for Asia, Shalini Nataraj, has heard directly from program partners about the kind of help people in Burma want from activists abroad. The plight of students — specifically, the consistent violation of their rights and the curtailment of their access to adequate education







are encouraged to hold teach-ins, pass student government resolutions, and initiate postcard campaigns. These initiatives will demonstrate support for students in Burma and pressure the military regime to honor students' nonviolent demands for their rights. While supporting students in Burma, US students can also raise much-needed awareness at their schools and around the world about the critical human rights situation in this country. They can also send a strong message to the military junta in Burma that the international community is watching their atrocious actions.

### UUSC Program Partners in the Student Movement

The All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF), was formed in November 1988 by students forced to flee Burma to escape the repression unleashed by the military regime. The ABSDF works to promote democracy and human rights and to help local people in remote areas, especially along Burma's borders, by providing health and educational assistance. The ABSDF publishes materials for education and empowerment, trains activists in human rights monitoring and legal issues, and provides education on STDs/AIDS awareness and women's rights.

The Burmese Women Union (BWU) was founded in January 1995, by a group of women students living on the Thai-Burmese border, to mobilize Burmese women from all religious, ethnic, and economic backgrounds so that they could participate in building a democratic society in Burma and advocate for their human rights. BWU is currently organizing educational and vocational training programs and actively lobbying at international forums to highlight the situation of women in Burma.

Aung Naing Oo of UUSC's partner group, the All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF), says, "The students are merely demanding the right to a decent education. By suppressing the rights and legitimate educational aspirations of students, the Burmese military is destroying the future of our country."

Students in Burma are struggling to change this, and we can do something to support that change.

*Rain Madan works in the International Programs department of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.*

**Find out more about UUSC's work in Burma and elsewhere around the world at: [WWW.UUSC.org](http://WWW.UUSC.org)**

### How You Can Help

- Encourage university and high school students to pass resolutions that affirm Burmese students' rights to education and academic freedom. UUSC can provide you with sample resolutions and other materials.
- If your city or state has not passed a selective purchasing law, help initiate such an effort. Order a UUSC *Burma Action Packet* to learn how your community can support a selective purchasing law where you live.
- Hold teach-ins, vigils, or educational events to focus attention on the human rights situation and student rights issues in Burma. UUSC can provide contacts with schools and groups who have held previous events.
- Coordinate or participate in a postcard campaign on your campus or school to pressure the Burmese military to stop violating students' rights.
- Invite local Burmese activists or citizens to talk to your group on campus or at your school.

*For more information and resources and a sample petition, or to order a free UUSC Burma Action Packet, contact:*

Shalini Nataraj  
1-800-766 -5236, ext. 225,  
email: [snataraj@uusc.org](mailto:snataraj@uusc.org)

OR Linda MacKay at ext. 226  
email: [lmackay@uusc.org](mailto:lmackay@uusc.org)





## Wider Horizons

Natalie Ceperley

During the first youth worship service at the National Social Justice Conference last February, we did an exercise where the leader asks a question and all the people who answer "yes" leave the group and go to the other side of the room. I was surprised to find that I was one of the two people left standing on the no side after the question,

"Are you an activist?" I did not think I was an activist. I thought an activist was someone whose life revolves around a cause. I had volunteered, advocated issues, and even attended a protest, but my life did not pivot around any particular issue, and I had never put a cause before my life. Now, my definition of an activist has expanded. For me, being an activist means knowing what is going on around

you and having an opinion. It means not being afraid to argue with your friends about what is right. It means spending hours on the phone organizing a project or campaign. It means making sacrifices for something you care about. My favorite part about being an activist is getting other people excited about an issue or helping the world.

The most exciting project I've done recently was the social action conference last weekend at the Second Unitarian Church of Chicago. Saturday morning all 200 conference attendees went out into the community to make a difference. There were workshops ranging from fixing up a neighborhood school to getting petitions signed. My group took canned food and coats that the conference participants had brought the night before to a homeless shelter in a church basement. We rode the El (the metro-type train in Chicago) for about 45 minutes to the other side of the city. Then we tried to follow

our vague directions to a homeless shelter, but we ended up having to ask directions quite a few times. We must have walked at least an hour and a half before the food actually got there, but it did. Even though this project would have been a lot more efficient if someone had just driven the cans and coats to the shelter, I think that walking around a different neighborhood in Chicago served us well. I am from a much smaller town, so wandering through one of the poorer neighborhoods, let alone the big city, was very different. I was surprised how friendly the local residents were when we asked for directions. I think a big part of social action is widening your "comfort zone" and looking at our society from new perspectives. And through this exercise and helping the homeless population of Chicago, my definition of an activist has widened to include me.

*Natalie Ceperley is a youth from Champaign, IL, and the SAC for CMWD.*

## 1999 Swackhamer Peace Contest

Open to all high-school students.

**Essay topic:** Abolition 2000, a Global Network to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons, seeks an international treaty by the year 2000 for the phased elimination of nuclear weapons by early in the next century. What actions would you suggest that young people take to help realize this goal?

**Prizes:** First - \$1500  
Second - \$1000  
Third - \$500

**Deadline:**

**June 1, 1999**

**Rules:**

1. 500-1000 words.
2. Typed, double-spaced on white 8 1/2" by 11" paper. Submit two copies.
3. Name, address, telephone number, school, grade, and age of author on a cover page accompanying essay (do not put your name on the essay).
4. Include a bibliography.

Send entries by June 1 to:  
**Nuclear Age Foundation**  
**Swackhamer Peace Essay Contest**  
1187 Coast Village Rd,  
Suite 123  
Santa Barbara, CA 93108  
(805) 965-3443  
fax: (805) 568-0466  
wagingpeace@napf.org  
<http://www.wagingpeace.org>

Essays will be judged on the basis of knowledge of subject matter, originality of ideas, development of point of view, insight, clarity of expression, organization and grammar.



## Local Youth Group Project Alert!

Want to try something new in your local youth group? How about a youth-led service for the whole congregation? It's a little something we like to call:



## The 2nd Annual YRUU Sunday

and youth groups  
across the continent  
will be celebrating  
it on:

**April 11, 1999**

But if you don't have yours that Sunday, it's okay. Talk to your minister or Sunday Service Committee to get your YRUU Sunday scheduled and on track. Then work with your group to decide what sort of service you want to give. Traditional YRUU Sundays have focused on themes of youth spirituality and growing up, but you are limited only by your imagination. Here are some questions to think about when planning a YRUU Sunday:

*What sort of music would you have at a service led by your youth group?*

*Would you have a speaker (or several) address the congregation or would you create a more interactive format?*

*What do you want people who attend your service to leave with?*

*What do you want to get out of leading a service for the whole congregation?*

YRUU Sunday is brought to you by a resolution of the 1997 Youth Council. Good luck, and feel free to contact the Youth Office if you have questions!



## Climbing

by Blake Murphy

My youth group has always had a problem bonding. Last year we lost many people who aged out, and we spent the year discussing issues such as smoking rather than going on trips and such. To top it off, this year we lost more people due to the not-so-friendly discussions of the year before, and our youth group practically tripled in size because of new members from junior high. We spent the first few meetings doing discussion, but this year a few adults took the initiative and planned a trip to climb Mount Monadnock. A few people couldn't come, so the youth all went together in one car. We had a buddy system while climbing, where people would go in twos or threes or fours, etc. I buddied with John Horowitz, and on our way up we found this ledge. We went out on the ledge to get a nice view, and were quickly covered in ladybugs. John said it was their mating area, but I think it was John's dreds.

On our way to the top we saw a lady who had broken her foot, with a park ranger helping her down. We hung out on the top for about an hour, eating lunch and generally hanging out. One of our advisors, Art Smith, left before us to help the lady with the broken foot off the mountain. We took the harder trail up, so we thought it would be best to take the easier trail down. The easier trail was covered with large rocks which we had to slide down, a couple of times unsuccessfully. Finally, we got down and hung out in the car for about half an hour waiting for the lady with the broken foot to come down, and our drivers with her. When they finally came, late but happy, we started home. We opened the windows and blasted the radio, singing along to oldies and Disney greats, with promises of ice cream and pizza awaiting us. We had finally bonded.

*Blake Murphy is a youth from the Massachusetts Bay District*

**YO!**

**You've got a local youth group!  
Why don't you tell us about it?  
Submit to Synapse. You know you want to.**



## Dear Fabulous Youth Leader,

The RE Department and the Youth Office are always looking for better Religious Education Curricula for youth, especially those that take the form of four- to six-session mini-courses, and single session workshops and can be facilitated by either youth and adults.

Many of you have designed awesome programming for youth that is worthy of being distributed continentally. Please record what you did at your workshop by filling out this worksheet. Send completed curricula to the Youth Office (*we prefer PC-compatible disk or email*).

What kind of program was this (one session workshop, weekly class, etc.)?

Activities

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Facilitator: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

# of participants: \_\_\_\_\_

Why were you inspired to create this workshop, and what information does the facilitator need to know?

Goals, in terms of the specific way in which the participant will be changed by the experience.

Materials

Preparation

## Can You Read This?

YRUU is exploring ways to make resources available to youth who may communicate in languages other than English or who are vision-impaired and cannot benefit from written resources.

Has your church or youth group found ways to reduce these barriers?

Has your church been in need of such resources but didn't know where to find them?

Which YRUU resources do you think are most in need of being offered in more than one language/format?

Please send information to:  
Tera Little  
1999 YRUU Steering Committee  
300 S. Washington Avenue,  
Fayetteville, AR 72701  
email:  
suprstar@dicksonstreet.com

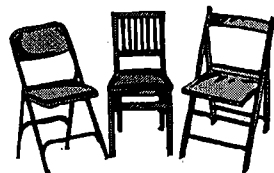
This is in response to a resolution passed at the 1998 Youth Council (the continental governing body of YRUU). Ask your district Youth Council Representative about it. See p.28 for opportunities for involvement!



# Ohio-Meadville District Plays Musical Chairs

by Rose Lynd

I recently found myself reflecting on my two years as co-chair of the YAC here in Ohio-Meadville. Over the last few years the number of co-chairs has grown, from two youth and one adult, to three youth and two adults, where one youth chair was inevitably the "slacker chair." In addition, we had a defunct Social Action position. So, during a late night food run for a YAC meeting, a better plan was devised. The new system rotates each youth chair through three positions, so that each begins as Communications Chair, then becomes Conference Dean, and ends as Social Action Chair (that's me). It gives structure and direction to the position, and there are even special binders to be passed along, which explain and compile helpful resources. People who were not at that inspirational meeting are often unable to understand our rotating chair system. So read carefully. Each co-chair serves a two-year, or six-conference, term. There are five co-chairs in all: two adults and three youth. Only the youth rotate. We hold elections for youth after every other conference; the next youth elected will replace me. For the first two conferences one serves as co-chair, one's title is Communications Chair. Responsibilities of the Communications Chair are to make and send out flyers; take, type, and distribute minutes; and keep an updated



mailing list. The middle two conferences are served as Conference Dean. This means overseeing every aspect of putting together and pulling off a successful conference. To end one's tenure as co-chair, there is Social Action. This position has the least structure to accommodate the increasingly hectic pace of the end of high school, but presumably the chair has already figured out how to

manage his/her time, and to set and meet appropriate deadlines. Duties include arranging at least one social action oriented workshop per conference, writing an article for our district YRUU newsletter, and organizing one weekend for the YAC to come

together and actively pursue social justice. Currently I am the Social Action Chair, and I love it, but I was more than a little nervous when we were writing this position into the new system. Luckily, one week before the election of our newest co-chair and the end of my term as Conference Dean, I attended the National Social Justice Conference and got incredibly excited about my new position. Now I want everyone to know about our rotating system.

*Rose Lynd is a youth from Columbus, OH.*

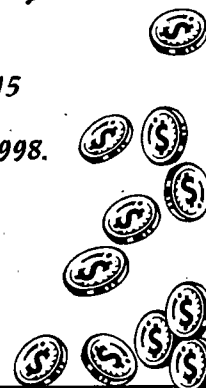
## CASH FOR YOUTH

*Do you have grand ideas for your local or district YRUU group? Do you lack the money to make your dreams come true? There is grant money available for groups that engage in social action, awareness raising, and advocacy -- that's us! Writing the grants is easier than it sounds. Ask the treasurer of your congregation, or anyone else with experience in grant-writing, for help. Get in touch with these groups for more specific instructions.*

*Good luck!*

**The Unitarian Universalist Funding Program**  
P. O. Box 40  
Boston, MA 02117  
(617) 247-6600, fax: (617) 247-1015  
<<http://www.uua.org/uufp/>>  
The UUFP deadline is March 15, 1998.

**Sunday School Society**  
c/o Anne Willever  
15 Boardman St. Norfolk, MA 02056  
[willever@ma.ultranet.com](mailto:willever@ma.ultranet.com)  
(508) 528-0730



## ***What's going down in the districts? Reports from a few of your YCRs:***

### **Connecticut Valley - Sarah Pappas**

Our first con was Nov. 13-15. I went to a Mass. Bay Con (yay district exchanges!). The CVD and Mass. Bay districts might be combining their districts to make one big district soon. We have an SDC scheduled for Jan 8-10 and a Jr. High Con in May. We have problems reaching out to churches whose youth groups don't come to conferences, but we are going to go visit them soon.

### **Metro-New York - Doug Faron**

Stuff is just getting started in our district. There was a successful Jr. High Con, an SDC training for our district's Ministers Association, and a district Advisor Training. We are considering another district exchange this year (call Doug if you are interested in coming to Metro-NY!). The first YAC meeting went well, and our district board is getting involved and taking some pride in our amazing YAC. Our first con was over Halloween weekend, and we had an LDC two weeks later. We are reaching out to Shelter Rock, a huge church with little district involvement.

### **Ballou Channing - Matt Moore**

We have an SDC planned for the spring. We're on the way to figuring out election process, and we're in the beginning stages of developing a functioning YAC. Our developing smoking policy: the ever-popular "three butt rule" (i.e. If the conference staff finds three cigarette butts on the ground, there will be no smoking for a specific amount of time). One very exciting project I'm working on is a regional con with MBD and CVD for Memorial Day weekend. We definitely need improvement in social action, and we find that indecision is blocking the way.

### **Pacific Central - Eroca Nicols**

We have so much going on! We've got an SDC planned for the spring, two Advisor Trainings have happened and one is planned for early '99, an LDC is planned for Dec. 4-6, and a Jr. High Con planned for Nov. 6-8. WUUKY (a regional con with PNWD, PSWD, and MDD) is still in the planning stages, but coming along very well. Our Council retreat was very productive; we discussed each of the positions on our YAC and how to improve on them this year and for the future. We have a Council Overnight planned for just before Election's Con. PCD YRUU is on great terms with the board. In fact, the nominating committee may nominate someone from YRUU to be on PCD Board as a regular member, not just a liaison! We are hoping to do outreach to Napa and San Mateo, and services are being planned for Reno, Hawaii, and San Jose. Although our co-SACs have trouble generating interest, there is quite a lot of social action planned for the near future. Youth Lobby Day is coming up in January; we'll be lobbying the state reps. in the Capitol, and advocating for queer youth rights in high schools. We are planning to have a regional Social Action event in December, and our co-SACs are developing a Social Action website. On a young adult spin: Re-Evolution, a Leadership Development Conference for Young Adults between the ages of 17 and 25, will be led by Frog Davidson and Donna DiScuillo this winter. Look out for this training, it will be coming soon to a district near you!

### **St. Lawrence - Doug D'Attilio**

There will be an LDC, November 23-25. There will be an SDC workshop at the next conference. The meetings in our district are very indecisive, but we're working on it. Our first formal YAC meeting will be soon.

### **Prairie Star - Stephanie Knipfer**

The YAC has made more progress in one meeting than I thought we would all year. I'm psyched!!! We've made a smoking policy, a driving policy, and a youth sponsorship policy. We're also putting together a "YAC Seal of Approval." It will give cons a set of policy guidelines to use. In exchange for following these guidelines, the YAC will advertise their cons through our web page and Outreaches at each congregation or church. We will be taking these policies to our District Board for approval. The next big event we're putting together is our SDC.

### **Central Mass - Aaron Kucharski**

We have SDC trainers and they are planning something soon. November 20th is the next con, and elections will happen there. We are planning to elect a SAC and a Junior High representative to join the YAC. An LDC will be happening in the fall.

### **Vocabulary words:**

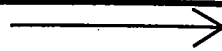
**Con/Rally:** District or Region-wide weekend or week-long gatherings that build community.

**YAC:** Youth/Adult Committee, the government of a YRUU district.

**SAC:** Social Action Coordinator/Contact/Committee, Whoever is in charge of getting their district involved in social justice issues.

**SDC:** Spirituality Development Conference: A gathering focused on worship, spirit, and youth-adult connections within our denomination.

**LDC:** Leadership Development Conference, UUA-trained youth and adult leaders from another district come and lead a conference to inspire and teach leadership skills and youth empowerment.

Contact your YCR? 





# continental camp

<http://www.uua.org/YRUU>  
check it OUT!

## Youth Caucus

Youth Caucus at General Assembly has always been two things: a housing arrangement that is less expensive and more fun (everyone 14-20 stays in one hotel) and a business body that meets to discuss the business of GA. In the past few years, a dramatic increase in population (from 60 to 350 youth participants) lead Youth Council to reexamine Youth Caucus as a powerful body within the denomination. Think about it, 350 awesome youth at the annual business meeting of the UUA, we shouldn't be discussing the business, we should be determining it! Youth Council charged the Youth Office and Steering Committee to restructure Youth Caucus with this exciting potential in mind. The new structure recalls one of the fundamentals of YRUU: if you want to get things done, you've got to have a community dedicated to the task. And with 350 youth, we also have enormous fun! This year, Youth Caucus at General Assembly will be a different beast altogether with more organization, more space, more programming, and more staff.

## How to Fund Your Way to GA

Eroca Nicols

Greetings my fellow frugal penny pinchers! Is that lack of the sweet green dollar standing between you and the fantabulousness of Youth Caucus and General Assembly? I am here to let you know that it's possible to gather resources that you may not have realized are available. Are you a member of a Youth Group? There are tons of ways to raise money within your own congregations. Make your congregation aware that you, or your entire youth group, are working toward a goal of going to GA. Make an announcement, then publicize the amount you need on a big poster, and keep everyone informed about how far along you are every Sunday. Then, launch a series of fundraising gigs at your church. This list of suggestions is just the tip of the iceberg! There are many ways to get yourself to Youth Caucus and GA. Don't let lack of cash keep you from participating in an inspiring week of Unitarian Universalism!

*Eroca is a youth from Sacramento, CA.*

\*Try a car wash; this tends to be a big winner after the slushy winter season.

\*Does your church sell lunch after the service? You and members of your youth group could offer to make the lunch for a couple Sundays, and announce during the service that proceeds will go to your GA fund.

\*Sometimes the most difficult part is getting to the site (this year it's in Salt Lake City). One way of decreasing the cost of travel is to carpool with people from your area who are driving to GA. Find out if there are people in your church who are planning to drive and have an extra seat in their car. Even better, organize a van-load of youth, with a few wonderful and dedicated advisors and parents.

\*Try organizing a congregation-wide auction.

\*Get one of those big water jugs and put it out for people to drop change in.

\*Every church has the option of sending delegates to vote on official business at GA. Talk to your church board about becoming a delegate. Your church might have a budget to send you to GA.

\*Call your district board executive and ask if there's a district scholarship fund for such events.

Registration forms and other info about GA will be available in March.

*Write for Synapse and go to GA for free! Well, maybe not. But write anyway.*





# You should be on Youth Caucus Core Staff!

"Hold on there cowpokes! I don't even know what it means to be on core staff! What would my job be? And how am I going to afford to get myself to Salt Lake City?"



Let us calm all your qualms with some information where it counts. Core staff are generally in charge of making Youth Caucus amazing, but each position has specific duties and roles. Core staff will do most of their planning before GA, and will come to Salt Lake City on June 23. GA is from June 24-29. Core Staff will meet daily at GA. Every member of Core Staff (4 youth and 4 adults plus the Youth Office and the Business Manager, already selected) will have their travel, housing, and registration paid.

## youth staff

### Madame or Mr. HUUPER

Hard-core UU Person Energized and Ready (and basically the dean of Youth Caucus). In charge of running the daily community meetings and coordinating the "HUUPsters", a staff of scholarship recipients/ volunteers who in turn will lead the "HUUP Groups," touch groups that meet nightly to check-in, discuss rooming issues and their experiences at GA.

### Business Manager Assistant

Apply only if you've attended GA before. You will assist the GA Business Manager run huge daily Business Meetings for Youth Caucus, and need a good understanding of the GA resolution process.

### Worship Coordinator

Youth Caucus has a tradition of nightly youth worships as well as a series of worshipful events for the entire GA community. Your job is to facilitate the planning meetings for the nightly worships, and the All-GA Youth Worship, and liaison to the folks planning the Bridging Ceremony and the Junior High Welcoming Ceremony. You will have a volunteer assistant\*.

### Events Coordinator

You are in charge of planning and coordinating activities to happen in the Youth Caucus spaces, mainly after programming hours, with the help of a volunteer Events Committee. These may be scheduled events (business meetings, HUUP group meetings) events planned by the committee or the coordinator (dances, discussion groups, ) or events that members of the Youth Caucus plan on the spur of the moment (one-shot workshops, parties). This person and committee are in charge of promoting these events, as well as keeping tabs on GA program guide.

## adult staff

### Female and Male Chaplains

You are available to youth for counseling on emotional, sexual, or any other kinds of issues, and supportive of core and volunteer staff who may be dealing with these issues in their interactions with participants (especially HUUP group leaders). You have experience in crisis management. You will work with the volunteer Male and Female Youth Chaplains.\*

### \*Volunteer Staff

The Worship Assistant, the HUUPsters, and the Female and Male Chaplains are volunteer staff positions and will be advertised in the next Synapse. Scholarships are available for these folks, but you don't have to be volunteer staff to get a scholarship, and you don't have to need a scholarship to be volunteer staff.

### Logistics/Gopher

You live in or near Salt Lake City and can do some work before GA, scouting out the area surrounding the Youth Caucus hotel for youth-friendly (i.e. cheap, safe, and fun) entertainment and food-venues. You will come to a pre-site meeting in March.

**to apply:** send a resume of your leadership experience, a letter of your intentions for this position, and 2 letters of recommendation to the Youth Office by **Jan. 11**

### Sponsor Coordinator

You will write a letter to go along with every sponsor form describing their role at GA and a letter to youth explaining sponsorship. You will lead the Mandatory Sponsor Training at Youth Caucus Orientation with a youth member of core staff. And you will act as a liaison between sponsors and core staff during the week, assist in locating youth, and listen to concerns.

-BY THE WAY. At GA, Youth Caucus will elect a **Working Action Manager** out of the youth who attend. This superstar will run on an issue platform and will work throughout the year on getting this issue onto the GA agenda for next year. Next year, the WAM will be on core staff and will help run Youth Caucus Business Meetings.

**WAM Baby, WAM!**



# YRUU's Continental Conference

July 31 - August 5, 1999 Camp Hantesa, Iowa



*"Party Like It's 1999:  
YRUU On the Verge  
of a New Millenium"*

## ***Apply for ConCon Staff:***

### Youth Core Staff Positions

The **Energy Coordinator** facilitates meetings of the Spirit Committee, which is responsible for paying attention to the overall mood of the conference community, and the Energy Committee, which deals with conference rule infractions. She/he also coordinates wake-up, energizes spirit circle each morning, and explains the rules at orientation.

The **Special Events Coordinator** plans all-camp activities, including events such as the Coffee House, the dance, and the Super-Secret All-Camp activity.

The **Touch Group Coordinator** works directly with the leaders of the conference touch groups. She/he facilitates daily meetings of all touch group leaders to disseminate and gather information and ideas for the facilitation of touch groups.

The **Worship Coordinator** leads the Worship Workshop, which is responsible for planning and running nightly all-camp worship services.

The **Workshop Coordinator** works with the workshop leaders. He/she coordinates the week-long workshops' location and registration, coordinates and publicizes daily "one-shot" workshops led by members of the conference community, and organizes secret buddies.

### Adult Core Staff Positions

The **Adult Coordinator** looks out for the adults at Con Con, helping to keep them healthy, happy, and well-adjusted through facilitating daily adult meetings and representing adults' concerns at staff meetings. This person should have a clear understanding of youth-led programming, and a knowledge of the role of adults as advisors.

The **Logistics Coordinator** is preferably from the local area, i.e., Iowa. This person is responsible for coordinating transportation between the airport and the site, arranging any home hospitality needed before Con Con, and handling Con Con's finances (with the help of the Youth Office). This person will be responsible for recruiting and coordinating the Gopher.

### Support Staff Positions

The **Mug Book Editor** (youth position) is responsible for photographing each conference participant, photographing conference events, and editing and laying out the Mug Book, which is similar to a "yearbook" of the conference. The Mug Book is distributed to conferees on the final day of Con Con. This year the Mug Book Editor will lead a small week-long workshop. The participants of the workshop will be the Mug Book Editor's staff and will assist the Mug Book Editor in completing the Mug Book.

The **Lifeguard** (youth position) is responsible for coordinating swimming times for the conference community, and being present and watchful during those times. This person must be certified in lifeguarding and CPR.

The **Nurse** (an adult position) is responsible for creating, monitoring, and enforcing health and safety standards during Con Con. She/he must be a registered nurse, and must be willing to be available whenever needed during the conference. Before Con Con, the nurse purchases and transports needed supplies for the infirmary, which he/she will staff during Con Con.

The **Chaplain** (youth or adult position) is a spiritual resource for the conference community. This person does not need to be an ordained UU minister, but should have an understanding of the spiritual needs of youth. He/she works with the Worship Coordinators to plan nightly workshops for the community. In the past, the Chaplain has led small gatherings such as early morning workshops, dream sharing, and reflective discussion times. The Chaplain should be a good listener, available to individuals who seek counseling, and is asked to attend meetings of the Spirit Committee.

**Workshop Leaders** (youth or adult positions) may apply to lead week-long workshops. Workshops may have two leaders, and may relate to the theme "Party Like It's 1999: YRUU on the Verge of a New Millenium." Each week-long workshop is composed of four two-hour meeting times, and will have approximately 20-25 participants each.

Core staff, Nurse, and Mug Book Editor will have their travel and registration expenses covered. Other support staff and all Workshop Leaders will have their registration covered, with some funds available for transportation scholarships. Please state your financial needs in your application.

Core staff will attend a pre-site planning meeting in Boone, IA, Mar. 12-14, for which all expenses will be paid. All staff will arrive at Con Con one night early for final planning.

To apply, send a **letter of intent**, specifying the position(s) you are interested in, and describing your ideas, vision, skills, and related experience, as well as **two references** to:

**YRUU Steering Committee**  
c/o The Youth Office  
25 Beacon St. Boston, MA 02108  
fax: (617) 742-0321

**Deadline:**  
**January 11,**  
**1999**

You Could Be the Next...

## YRUU Programs Specialist

The YRUU Programs Specialist position is a one-year internship in the Youth Office at the Unitarian Universalist Association headquarters in Boston, Massachusetts.

**Responsibilities include:** Working with the Youth Programs Director and the other YRUU Programs Specialist to manage the business of the Youth Office; editing and laying out the newspaper *Synapse*; helping to plan and administer conferences and youth gatherings including ConCon, Youth Council, YRUU Steering Committee meetings, the National Social Justice Conference, and Youth Caucus at General Assembly; interacting with other employees of the UUA; participating in business meetings; implementing decisions of the YRUU Youth Council and Steering Committee; and traveling to events all over the continent.

**Qualifications:** Ability to relate well with youth and adults, YRUU experience, leadership experience, good organizational skills, the ability to communicate well through speaking and writing, a sense of humor, and a strong commitment to YRUU and the principles upon which it is based.

**The applicant must be between the ages of 16 and 22, inclusively, on September 1, 1999.**

**Terms of employment:** This position is a one-year commitment, beginning September 1, 1999, and ending August 31, 2000. The salary is \$23,500. Moving expenses to and from Boston are paid, and medical insurance is provided. Other benefits include paid vacations and holidays. The new intern is expected to find her or his own living accommodations and pay for all living expenses while in Boston.

**For an application:** Write to the Youth Office, 25 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108; call (617) 742-2100, x350, 351, 352; or email [yruu@uua.org](mailto:yruu@uua.org).

**Applications must be postmarked or received by March 15, 1999.**

## How to Get in Good at the UUA

by Phyllis Daniel

Lately, there has been discussion of ways youth can become more involved in the UUA "corridors of power" -- be part of the decision-making and policy-setting that goes on at the continental level of volunteer involvement. Discussions at Youth Council have centered around youth involvement at the level of the Board of Trustees. In addition, there are some committees to which the UUA Board appoints volunteers, and some committees to which the General Assembly (GA) elects volunteers.

The Nominating Committee recommends people to fill vacancies in committees elected by GA -- they have already passed their application deadline for this coming GA, but there is a petition process. The Committee on Committees (isn't that a great name?) accepts applications for vacancies in Board-appointed committees. We will be publicizing applications and vacancies at the upcoming GA in Salt Lake City. Until then, below are a few descriptions of committees on which youth might be interested in serving.

If you would like more information about the petition process for GA-elected committees, or the application process for the committees listed here, you can contact me at [PDaniel@uua.org](mailto:PDaniel@uua.org), (714) 527-7001, or at 4329 Dina Court, Cypress, CA 90630.

*Phyllis Daniel is Chair of the Committee on Committees and a UUA Trustee*

**Fund for Unitarian Universalism** - This committee provides grants to UU groups that support innovative programs with a wide impact. Two meetings a year.

**Fund for UU Social Responsibility** - This committee provides grants to UU groups that work to increase UU involvement in social change, education, service, and advocacy. Two meetings per year.

**Fund for a Just Society** - This committee provides grants to non-UU groups that work towards a more just society and to empower the disenfranchised. Two meetings per year.

**Technology and Communications Committee** - This committee, which meets electronically, promotes the use of electronic communication throughout the Association and supports volunteers who work to develop electronic communication projects.

Phew, now  
that's a lot of  
opportunities!



**Questions?**  
**Call the Youth Office:**  
(617) 742-2100 x351,352  
[yruu@uua.org](mailto:yruu@uua.org)



## How about Youth Council?

There are **four At-Large positions for youth**. The youth at-large positions are one-year commitments with an option to reapply for a second term at the end of the year.

### **Continental Social Action Coordinator:**

Duties include disseminating and gathering information from district Social Action Contacts and representing social action concerns of YRUU.

### **Transitional Age-Range Representative for Junior High:**



Provides the viewpoint of an under-represented age group at Youth Council, and coordinates outreach to that group on a continental level.

### **Transitional Age-Range Representative for Post-High:**



Provides the viewpoint of an under-represented age group at Youth Council, and coordinates outreach to that group on a continental level.

### **Canadian Youth At-Large:**

Represents Canadian concerns on Youth Council and works throughout the year to increase Canadian involvement in YRUU Youth Programs.

### **Adults At-Large:**

There are seven positions for adults (ages 25+) who each serve a two-year term. This year there are **three adult at-large positions** open. UU ministers, YRUU advisors, and religious educators are particularly encouraged to apply.

The YRUU Youth Council is the governing body of Continental YRUU. They meet once a year to make policy decisions, pass resolutions, worship, have fun, and decide the direction for the UU Youth Movement for years to come. The YRUU Steering Committee is now accepting applications for Youth Council positions.

### **Applications should be typewritten and should include:**

**Vital Information:** Name, address, phone number, date of birth, home church or fellowship, UUA district, and a list of people from whom you are expecting letters of recommendation.

**A Letter of Intent:** Why you want to be on Youth Council, the position for which you are applying, what you feel you can offer that position, what you think you can offer the group, any experience you have to bring to the group, what YRUU issues concern you, and your dreams and goals for YRUU. C\*SAC applicants should include a social action theme that interests them and ways of implementing it in district and local groups.

**Two Letters of Recommendation:** These can be from ministers, YRUU youth, RE directors, YRUU advisors, teachers, or others with whom you have worked (at least one letter from a youth and one from an adult).

### **Address your applications to:**

YRUU Steering Committee  
c/o The Youth Office  
25 Beacon St.  
Boston, MA 02108

**Application  
Deadline:  
March 15,  
1999**

### **Coming Soon to this Space....**

A New Position for  
Experienced YRUU Leaders  
(Young Adults, Youth, and Advisors)

## **YRUU Programs Consultant (YPC)**

Share your knowledge  
with the next generation.

### **4 Easy Ways to get involved in the work of Youth Council TODAY!!**

- If you know about any successful local or district junior high programs, send info to Melissa Cain (contact info page 23)
- Talk to your SAC about distributing *Our Whole Lives* (the UUA's new sex education curriculum) to local LGBT teen groups.
- Make a list of your youth advisors and send it to your YCR or the Youth Office.
- Write up a good workshop that you led or attended using the Curriculum Worksheet (pg 20). Send it to the Youth Office.





# SOAPBOX

★ SOCIETY GIVES US A BOX TO LIVE IN, AND YRUV HELPS US THINK AND LIVE OUTSIDE THAT BOX. BUT YRUV BECOMES A BOX TOO, UNLESS WE KEEP THINKING OUTSIDE OF THE INSTITUTION, AND KEEP REFORMING THAT INSTITUTION TO BE TRUER TO OUR IDEALS ★★

## Put the Smack Back in Social Action

by Rob Cavanaugh

Although YRUV was a great experience for me and continues to be great for many youth, I think it has become too wrapped up in itself. It's too much of a big, white, conference-community clique and not enough of a progressive, growing movement. Too much of YRUV leaders' energy and talent is put into keeping YACs alive and planning and attending conferences. [I can say this because I did this.] Sure, new people are brought in, but the way things are done insures that the new people who come in are pretty much like the old people. In other words, if YRUV is really going to become different, YRUV needs to do things differently.

I think it's time to pull some pages out of the LRY (Liberal Religious Youth) book. What if YRUVers stopped planning so many YRUV-exclusive conferences and started working more in the wider world? LRY attracted members because LRYers were so active in social justice organizing. Individual YRUVers do a lot of organizing, true, but I think it's often done either completely inside or completely outside YRUV. If the happy medium can be found, we will reach a lot more youth who would love YRUV if they only knew that it existed.

To go even further into the past, Unitarian and Universalist youth organizations before the merger used to be highly involved in secular peace organizations like the War Resister's League and the IARF (International Association for Religious Freedom). Some of these organizations are still around. Numerous other progressive

groups (peace-related and otherwise) exist that we could form links with, such as the Student Environmental Action Coalition.

YRUV also has great potential for promoting interfaith organizing among progressive religious youth. Although we may think that our UU values are unlike all others in the religious world, there are several other denominations with whom we have much in common. Our love of peace

we share with the Quakers. OWL-- the new sexuality education curriculum-- was developed in coordination with the United Church of Christ (UCC). The UUA's Faith in Action Department often finds itself working with the Religious Action Center of Reformed Judaism because of our shared passion for social justice.

Choosing how to invest time and resources is often difficult. The ease of sticking with fun traditions is quite attractive when compared to the challenges of engaging in meaningful,

ongoing social justice work. Does YRUV have the courage and commitment to accept the challenge? Only time will tell.



*Rob Cavanaugh was involved in YRUV from 1991-1996. During that time he served on the JP District Youth Steering Committee, was a LDC leader, and worked in the Youth Office. He is currently very involved in Young Adult and Campus Ministries.*

If you've got something to say,  
don't just grumble.

**Write for Soapbox!**

(Of course, you could also apply for POA.  
See page 6 for details)



## GOOD STUFF FROM THE YOUTH OFFICE

### The YRUU Songbook

edited by Alison Purcell

The songs and chants we love, for worship, community and fun! This 2nd edition has more chords and more songs. **Item 5 - \$5.00**

### The YRUU Songtape

Songs from the Songbook interpreted by a choir of voices from YRUU's continental conference. Bring these YRUU traditions to your group. **Item 22 - \$5.00 while supplies last.**

### Blessings to All Beings: A Spiritual Anthology

edited by Kathy Daneman

This book is chock full of spiritual resources! Includes a section on how to make worship, youth-style, as well as many poems and homilies by youth. **Item 6 - \$7.00**

### 15 Year Review

The Report and Findings of the 1997 Youth Programs Review Committee to the UUA Board and Youth Council. Official as it sounds, this book is actually a huge sourcebook of YRUU history and recommendations for improvement. Highly recommended to religious professionals. **Item 8 - free until reprint**

### Deep Fun: The YRUU Gamesbook

edited by Sienna Baskin

An exciting compendium of games arranged in the "Five Steps to Building Community." Includes most traditional YRUU games, some brand new ones, and some flashbacks to the days of LRY. **Item 4 - \$5.00**

### How to Start, Nurture, and Grow a YRUU Youth Group, video and booklet.

An instructional video hosted by Austin Putman, founding member of a youth group in San Diego, about adult/youth co-leadership, community building, and more. **Item 23 - \$10.00**

### YRUU T-shirt

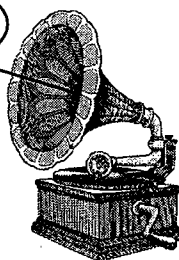
A fashion must for any self respecting YRUUer. Features a YRUU crossword puzzle with clues on the back. **Item 24 (please specify L/XL) \$10.00 while supplies last**

*For a complete catalog of periodicals, books, pamphlets, products, events, services, and leadership opportunities for Young Religious Unitarian Universalists, contact the Youth Office.*

**All this great stuff can be yours! Just contact the Youth Office. Remember, make checks out to "YRUU."**

Get Synapse?

Synapse is free for all YRUUers! Why not sign up a friend? Please have them fill out this form and mail it back to:



### The UUA Youth Office

25 Beacon Street  
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While you're at it, please check your address on the other side and fill out the requested info. We are continually updating our database to better serve you.

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
District: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_  
Positions in YRUU? (YAC member, con dean...): \_\_\_\_\_

My friend's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
District: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_  
Positions in YRUU? (Youth group pres, advisor....): \_\_\_\_\_



I closed my eyes and waited. There was a rhythm in my arms, my legs. With each pulse of blood, a kind of sound welled up within me, like an orchestra thousands strong, but not playing in unison; playing whole seasons of symphonies at once. Music in the blood. The sound became harsher, but more coordinated, wave-trains finally canceling into silence, then separating into harmonic beats.

The beats seemed to melt into me, into the sound of my own heart. ~ Brandon Welfel

YRUU at the UUA  
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