



Meet Wendell, Our New

The Youth Office is composed of three YRUU Program Specialists (YPSs), one Youth Office Director, and one Youth Office Assistant. When you call the Youth Office, we're the ones you talk with.



Hi. My name is William W. Seitz. Most people in YRUU know me as Bill, but for the year that I am a YRUU Program Specialist I intend to go by the name Wendell, so if you were expecting to talk to Bill in the Youth Office

when you call up to complain about the website I will tell you that my name is Wendell... I am new, and maybe I could transfer you to Paula or Robin. As the January YPS I get to play with the website and help orchestrate Con Con and Youth Council. Things that I liked before I became a YPS included, but are not limited to: swing dancing, soccer, college, sleeping, food, walking, traveling, flying kites, sleeping in my van, driving, thinking how great it would be if the Pacific Northwest succeeded from the the Union, bridges, painting, food, reading, popping zits, Mt. Taber, camping, Portland Oregon, the word smell, snowboarding, Fir trees, friends, music, leprechauns, salt, and Nerd Day. There were a lot of things I did not like before I became a YRUU

Program Specialist so I will not list them, but I will say I am excited to be here and look forward to all of the interesting changes that are occurring in my life. Your new YPS,

**Interested in
being a YPS?**

**See pages
25 & 26 for
information
or call the
Youth Office at
617/948.4350**

Continental Calendar Spring 2002

May 2-5 DRUUM Youth of Color Conference	Aug 12-18 ConCon!!
May 15 ConCon Scholarship Applications Due	Aug 13-18 Opus
May 15 General Assembly Youth Caucus Forms Due	Aug 20-26 Youth Council!!
May 15 General Assembly Youth Scholarship Applications Due	October YRUU Fall SC Meeting
June 18 ConCon Registration Due	November YRUU Social Justice Conference
June 20-24 General Assembly!!!	December 15 Application for June YPS Position Due
June 20-24 UUA Board of Trustees Meeting	January 2003 YRUU Steering Committee Winter Meeting
Aug 9-12 ConCentric	March 2003 Continental Advisor Training of Trainers

The NEW Youth Office Assistant

Born in the East and raised in Ohio, Ethan Field is a lifelong UU who was active in YRUU continentally and on a district level as a youth. After getting his degree in Physics and Religion in 1997 he did office work for a short time before being accepted into the Peace Corps. He then worked for three years in Tanzania (East Africa) as a high school physics teacher. He returned from Tanzania in January and moved to Boston in search of a well-established community. His interests





from the editor

It was late last fall when I first heard it mentioned that the funding for Synapse might be cut. I was shocked at even the suggestion, as unrealistic as it then sounded. As time wore on and the economy charged into recession, major cuts were coming from every side of the UUA; I started to become more familiar with the idea. And though I was once again shocked months later when I heard officially that Synapse was to be released exclusively online, it wasn't a complete surprise. It was the end of January. Those of us in the Youth Office sat with the news before presenting it as fact to our constituency. I was still holding out for some act of grace that would restore funding and make everything turn out all right. One evening, having reconciled with the fact that there was not the institutional funding to continue a print form of the publication, letting our readership know of the change in publication seemed exceptionally urgent. The Youth Office composed a statement sadly stating the circumstances and announcing that after 20 years of appearing in a hard-copy form Synapse, like many of the UUA publications, would go out of print and on to the web exclusively. Walking home that night I felt the impact of it all. The sadness of hundreds, or even thousands of people reading our brief message seemed to all hit me at once. I was grumpy all week.

I had anticipated the outcry that would arise when folks learned of the change in format. With a readership of over 15,000 people it seemed inevitable that some contingent would organize to maintain the publication in a print format. Though we maintained our neutrality as best we could, the Youth

Office was still overloaded with feedback and requests for advice on how to organize around the lack of funding for Synapse. As we have learned in the Youth Office, you most often hear from people when they are upset. And most often, people contain the knowledge (and for those fortunate folks, the power) to solve the problems that confront them. We were left to advise: "Do what you think is appropriate." It is in such a fashion that conversations have been spurred, and people all over the United States and Canada have begun to organize.

YRUU is a youth-led organization full of bright, strong and powerful people. I have faith that it will keep its best interests in mind and act accordingly within the constraints of its limited resources. If youth feel it is imperative to have a hard-copy of Synapse, I trust they will find a way to make it so. If YRUU feels it is more important for the money to go elsewhere to support youth, and that an on-line publication of Synapse will be sufficient, I trust that that too will be a good decision. What is important is that youth have a say in those decisions that affect them the most. This is the main tenant of youth empowerment. What follows in these pages is commentary on Synapse's changing format, as well as articles about youth putting their faith into action (our theme prior to knowing that funding had been cut). The back cover still hosts a subscription form, we intend to continue collecting subscriptions and offer Synapse to our readers, in whatever format, as best we can. Thanks to every-



About Synapse...

Synapse is a publication of Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU), the youth organization of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Subscription is free. Two issues per annum. For more information on subscriptions, see the back cover. All contributions are considered based on quality and whether they fit into our

Editors:

- Robin Scott Lea
- Paula Nett
- Wendell Seitz
- YRUU Program Specialists
- Jen Devine
- Youth Programs Director
- Mary Benard
- Copy Editor
- Judith Frediani
- Matt Moore

Contributors:

- Annie Abernethy
- Jenny Dunmore
- Jacob Larson
- Katie Whitworth
- Heather Robb
- Shea Schachameyer
- Misha Heller
- Marissa Gutierrez
- Ethan Thrower
- Heather Vail

Advertising:

Rates vary depending on size and type of organization. UUA affiliate and associate organizations are given preference by the editors. Also, non-camera-ready or odd-sized ads have special rates. Advertisements should not be construed as endorsements by the Youth Office, YRUU, or the UUA. The editors reserve the right to refuse any advertisement. Contact the Youth Office for specific rates



Spill the basket

Synapse Goes Out of Print...

I am an active youth in the Mass Bay District and have been receiving Synapse for approximately three years, and since the first issue I have been captivated by the creativity and ideas found between its covers. I love reading the articles and poems and enjoy the artwork. It's a great way to spread important national information to all YRUUs who are interested.

I am writing because I was recently told that Synapse may lose funding for its publication and will cease to be sent to youth across our country. This is a great concern to me because it is my hope that all upcoming YRUUs, including my younger brother and sister, will be able to appreciate all that is contained within Synapse. While I understand funds are scarce this year, I feel Synapse should not be one of the things that are affected.

I am curious to know how much money is needed for the yearly publication of Synapse, and if perhaps some of the money that will be generated next year by the Mind the Gap campaign could go towards the continuation of Synapse so that this upcoming issue would not be the last. If that is not one of the intended uses of the money from Mind the Gap, there are many youth in many districts that would be interested in raising funds to ensure that Synapse does not end now. Please consider the widespread importance of Synapse before you choose to

stop funding it. Thank you very much for your time.

-Elizabeth Middleton, North Andover, MA.

Thank you for your letter. To clarify, though Synapse will no longer be a print publication it will be published online, our readers in Canada, the United States and throughout the world can continue to access it in this way. The yearly budget to print 2 copies of Synapse and mail them to about 15,000 readers has been \$10,000. We tend to go over budget as our readership grows. We add about 100 people to our mailing list a month. Money from the Mind the Gap campaign could possibly be allocated to print Synapse. Decisions on how to spend this money will be made by a Long Range Planning Committee meeting this year.

Gee, the Youth Office is great!

Thank you very much for talking to us about many great things YRUU has to offer. It was great to be able to hear what everything is about from real workers from YRUU. One thing that helped our youth group was learning that we can make our own decisions and we can take a step to change things that we feel should be different. Most of all, I think that you guys were able to give us a better perspective of what YRUU can do for us. More of us will be able to fulfill our roles as Unitarian Universalists Youths.

Sincerely,
Dan & the Youth Group
of First Unitarian
Church, Cincinnati, OH

Wow, I don't think we could have faked a better letter than that! I'm glad we were able to help. For those of you who have never given the Youth Office a call, there are in fact real workers here. We love talking to folks in local congregations and helping folks come up with solutions and ideas for their local youth groups. Usually at least one YRUU Program Specialist can be found in the office on any weekday between 9am and 5pm, EST. Give us a call at 617/948.4350, or send us an e-mail at yruu@uaa.org. For more information see our website at www.uaa.org/YRUU

Just one, please....

We are 2 members of the Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco. We are very grown up, each past 70. Synapse is a pleasure for us to read because it shows great vitality at work and keeps us informed about what's happening. So we are really pleased to be on your list.

Presently we are receiving 2 copies of Synapse. However, we can share one copy of the "point of contact where information and energy are exchanged."

Thank you for the journal. We'll be looking for another one; that is, just one copy.

-Millicent & John Rutherford

We were so excited to know the

d



Table of Contents

The Basics

Continental Calendar	1
New Youth Office Staff	1
Spill the Basket	5
Steering Committee Speaks	6
Backflash	8
Soap Box	
31	

Features and Articles

Given the Opportunity	7
Say Yes	9
A Playground in Crew Port	
10	
The School of the Americas	
24	
Testimony of a SAC	27
No More Prisons	28
Prison Cell for Political Prisoners	
29	
A Word from Ethan...	30
Youth and Young Adult Sunday	
30	

Are you a writer, poet, artist, youth, or just feel really strong about something? Do you want your work to be distributed to over 15,000 people?

**Submit
to
Synapse!
!**

We accept articles, poetry, lyrics, paintings, and drawings year round. Space permitting, we publish nearly everything we receive. We want to see the creative, opinionated, strong, articulate, beautiful work that YRUUers are creating. Share that amazing project your youth group did, tell us about your experience at General Assembly, or send us great youth empowerment stories from your school and community.

Steering Committee Speaks

hey dhalice lovers... writing u from so cal and illinois, we are 2 grrls who love consensus.

another thing we love is converging in boston throughout the year with our committee of steerers. steering committee is the executive body of yruu; we work all year long to facilitate the business of youth council, and we come up with new projects to work on that we feel will steer yruu in the best direction.

this year steering committee is very dedicated to building an anti-oppressive structure for yruu. we feel that it is essential in our goals for UUism and youth work to make sure this institution is successfully combating supremacy & privilege and encouraging multi-culturalism & accountability to people of color. at each meeting steering committee struggles with how to be most efficient and accountable to you all in how we go about doing this work.

our main responsibility is youth council, the annual meeting of your representatives, so we began by looking at how to transform it, and came up with so much stuff... we won't bother you with things that aren't relevant to you, but be sure to talk to your youth council representative about it after august. next year your ycr will be ready to help implement more a-r programming and visioning for your district.

also, we have a big anti-racism plan for a-r work at all levels of yruu that this sc definitely will not be able to finish because it is so chock full. we are beginning though and we hope you will look up our list and get inspired. fighting oppression in our societies and our organizations is an imperative and we hope that everyone will begin to look beyond her /his ideal of yruu and see where superiority finds its place. who attends your district events? what is the general culture of your district? who are the leaders? where does money and programming focus? begin to ask questions like this, and try to answer them using your anti-oppressive lens. what do

your answers assume, and who are they accountable to? become aware of your role in an oppressive system and how you can use that to fight oppression. for example i am a woman and i combat sexism by not letting myself be silenced, or i am white so i combat racism by resisting privilege. also be aware of your friends roles and how you can be allies to each other.

yruu focuses on fostering leadership among the marginalized age range, and youth leaders should also be working to empower other marginalized groups. struggler peter tosh says everyone is fighting to reach the top, but how far is it from the bottom? it is all of our responsibility as yruu to make sure there is no bottom, no top, and no fight- that we are truly equal and we are all leading the community.

if you are interested in learning more about anti-racism and how we can bring it into yruu, don't be afraid to give a call to the steering committee or youth council member nearest you (or farthest if u don't mind the fees). and here s an opportunity: chris weber, your position on appraisal, is working on creating more resources and finding really cool workshops about anti-racism. if your youth group is interested in trying out some a-r curricula and evaluating it, or you have ideas for activities or resources, contact chris.

at this point, anti-racism is just at the continental level of yruu, and that in itself is pretty elitist. we need help in spreading the movement, and would like you to be our butter knife. if you have ideas or comments about how you believe we should steer yruu, please let us know. to get in touch with steering committee or youth council, contact the youth office at yruu@uua.org or 617/948.4350. Any of us would love to chat with you about whatever you want. we are here as resources for you, and you are also a useful resource for



Given the Opportunity

by Jacob Larson

I was given the opportunity to travel to India as one of the UU representatives in a multi-faith, young adult project, aimed at demonstrating inter-faith harmony and assisting in the rebuilding of a mosque and a temple. The northwestern state of Gujarat lies on the border of Pakistan and is a place where, for the most part, Hindus, Muslims, Jains, and Sindhis coexist in peace. Our team consisted of Christians of all colours, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, First Nation, Baha'i, atheists, agnostics, Unitarians, and Unitarian-Universalists. I remember eating and praying together and each sharing our different faiths and cultures. I remember hauling cement together and sharing that sweet refuge in the shade when our bodies had given all they could give. The goal of our project was not only to tear down a wall and pour a foundation, but also to create an interfaith community by tearing down our preconceptions and building bridges between our differences with mutual respect and tolerance.

Hearing about the violence that has recently engulfed the state of Gujarat has filled me with sadness and concern for my friends who live in that region. Seeing the TV images of burnt out houses and stores and hearing about innocent people being targeted and killed because of their religion seems irreconcilable with my memories from Gujarat. But now, on the streets where I

walked -the very same ones- people are committing unspeakable acts of hatred towards one another. The role of the young adult project seems that much more desperate now. At times I wasn't really sure what interfaith meant, but no longer will I take such a blessed thing for granted. The community we created, if only temporarily, is a

The goal of our project was not only to tear down a wall and pour a foundation, but also to create an interfaith community by tearing down our preconceptions and building bridges between our differences with mutual respect and

model for tolerance, compassion, and hope. We hear about far too many needless deaths around the world, and after a while, a frightening phenomenon occurs: they begin to just be numbers. How can a number convey the loss of a brother or sister, a best friend or husband, a real person with hopes and joys and sadness as real as anyone else's? I

weep for those who have been killed, their families, and their killers; all real people. As real as you or me. After being in Gujarat, and visiting their homes, and sharing laughter with them, I am both relieved and frightened that never again will I be able to hide in the numbers game when innocent lives are lost or threatened.

It is easy to condemn the state of Gujarat and be thankful that we live in a "civilized" place where such atrocities don't occur. But as horrible as this violence is, Indian society is the only place I've been that I would describe as truly interfaith. It is a country where every facet of life has religious significance and living is an act of devotion. In a country plagued by desperate poverty, houses of worship are large and splendid and always clean. Though there were disagreements within our group, we found common ground in the saying, "God is one." We all had a different name for it, but that spirit of love and goodness, which is at the heart of every religion, called on us to cherish one another. Our interfaith was created not by melting all our faiths together into one homogenous goo, but rather by living out the highest values espoused in each tradition and finding the message was similar.

While I shift between hope and sorrow, my experience in India has taught the richness of interfaith and how fragile it truly is.

Jacob Larsen is a radical YRUUer from Toronto, ON. He is also one of the current youth observers to the UUA

backflash: where were we a twenty years ago??

In the basement of the UUA there is a secret cement room with a filing cabinet. It is full of mugbooks, Youth Caucus Agendas and incriminating photos. What follows is a Worship Service lead by Liberal Religious Youth, the predecessor to YRUU, at ConCon 1974. The theme was "Boomerang, Planting the Seeds of Social Change."



Setting: outside under the pavilion two hundred LRYers each hold a candle. The reader holds a candle that is lit

From the small light of this candle, which is my life, I can see within myself. I see joy and excitement. I see good intention. I see balance and movement. I also see how my mind has been shaped by forces I do not fully understand, to be something I do not want to be.

In school I have learned to disregard my feelings and obey the rules. The alternative was to be punished and if I persisted I would have been locked up. At home I have learned to hide away my sexuality. I have learned to not express anger. I have learned that I must wait till I'm older always waiting and yet I see when I am older things are just as bad.

Well, I have pain and I have anger. And I hereby declare my intention to unlearn every goddamn trait that limits me: the feeling of powerlessness, the not taking myself and my feelings seriously, the competitiveness that shows itself when I interrupt someone or don't listen to someone but instead formulate what I'm going to say in a conversation.

From the small light of this candle, which is my experience, I see the limits imposed on me from outside. I see laws making it a crime to just walk away from school. I see that soon I will be forced into working for someone

else's profit, in a situation where they make the decisions about if I can work, when I can work, and what conditions I work under. They give the choice between many different jobs—different versions of the same situation; and they call that freedom. I see that as an individual I have little power to make social change.

From the small light of this candle, which is my understanding, I see the relationship between these external and internal limits. I see that it is useful to employers to have workers who are obedient and don't get angry, which I have learned at school and at home. I

see that someone is making a huge profit at my expense, at all our expense. And I see that I am

bribed with small privileges so that I don't step out of my place. Being middle class, I'm able to get a better job than a person who hasn't been taught to speak as articulately as I. Being male I'm able to walk down the street without fear of being raped, and I can marry if I wish to come home to a clean house, or

I can talk more than most women in serious conversation, because I have been taught to dominate and be the center, while women have been taught to take care of my ego. Being white and heterosexual, I can be relatively without fear of the police. I can hitchhike. I can go just about anywhere.

And it is tempting to settle for these and other privileges, 'cause social change seems so far away.

From the small light of this candle, which is understanding of the whole, I see how race, sex, class, and age have been used to divide us, giving small privileges to one half so that the other half fights with the first half to get the privileges, and the first half fights to defend them. That way no one is strong or united enough to challenge the people who control the wealth and institutions of this country: Rockefeller, the banks, the corporations, a



handful of rich white men. I see how they exploit people all over the world for their own profit. People are starving and yet on their land instead of protein they are forced to grow coffee and sugar for the United States.

I see that settling for a less horrible job than your neighbor, or making democracy in schools and at work in America while still exploiting people all over the world, that these are no solutions. And here it is: it is a leap from the consciousness of "I" to the consciousness of "WE." Personal solutions have never worked, they have never gotten rid of pain, at best they dull it. And that's why we must plant the seeds of social change.

From the small light of this candle, which is my struggle, I see that change must come both within our heads and outside in our social structure. I see the handful of people making a profit off our pain- and I see how organized and powerful they are. I see we are divided. I also see that they will not voluntarily give up control: that is a lesson of history. And so we must learn to cooperate with each other towards a common goal of control of our lives. That is not a short or easy process -yet it is essential. It doesn't mean smoothing over disagreements and differing needs or wants. It means learning to deal with these differences constructively, in a way that keeps us committed and connected to each other. It means saying what we want and trusting that if we are seeing ourselves as a group we will individually, as well as as a group, get a high percentage of what we want. It means not copping to permanent individual solutions which leave somebody on the bottom still. It means striving to make the process reflect the goal. It may mean at times working separately but connected, and at other times working within the same group. It means studying together the roots of our problems and figuring out together what the next step to do will be. And it means doing it and learning from our mistakes -through self-criticism- along the way.

Let, then, the struggle of resistance begin. Against exploitation, competition, school, the corporate giant; let us be gentle with each other in working towards changes in our own heads.

Let us be together and strong. This flame is the burning of my soul. It is my pain and my struggle, it is my power. Alone it means little. Let it spread like a prairie fire.

Say Yes

By Katie Whitworth

When the tree falls
and the wood splinters
when the building explodes
and the dust settles
when I crawl across the floor on my knees
begging, for another chance
to climb the ladder
not knowing
whether or not it will break from the weight
oh, when they conduct an inspection
to see who is perfect
and I don't quite pass
will you still be there?
when they break down the door and I don't cry
out
the lights go dark, and I don't know where to
go
when we find out that everything we know is a
pack of lies
will you believe?
then, when the night comes
dark and cold
and there's something in the air
that isn't quite right
will you not fear?
when I take off all my clothes
and there is nothing there but my naked body
will you not look away?
Say yes, please, because I want you to stay
until the morning at least
and when the morning light shines on your
face
I'll see you for all that you are not
and love you for what you are
when we see it's another day
and we want it to be right
neither of us can be disappointed
when we learn that many things are wrong
even we are wrong
and no place is perfect
so we forget
and find a way to laugh
even when we know there are certain things
we can not be free of
we will be ok if we can just forget for a
moment
just don't be surprised when
tomorrow we wake up
feeling a little more at ease
because we are no longer confused
suddenly it is clear
we have to try
it is very difficult
but things will get better
but then we have to wonder, is this what we

A Playground in Crew Port

by Heather Robb

A stunning backdrop of water-color skies, Max-field Parish blues and pink clouds. The mountains stood tall and brown against the sky. A small town sat nestled between the surrounding mountains. In a building in the town a man stood expectantly in front of a group of 20-some youth and adults awaiting an answer that does not come. The question had struck us all dumb.

For a rambunctious group of UU youth we were miraculously quiet. Lyle wanted the answer that none of us were yet prepared to give. A sweet girl named Ellie had raised her hand and answered his previous question the way any of us in the room would have: "I want to help the people of Crew Port because they are less fortunate than me. I want to learn about a new culture and share my experiences with my community at home." In retrospect, I don't see how a statement like this could have received the approving nods and muttered agreement that it did from myself and the rest of the youth.

Lyle smiled knowingly at her response. "Alright Ellie, and how do you think that answer would sound to the people of Crew Port?" And suddenly Ellie's answer didn't sound so sweet -it sounded condescending, ignorant and disrespectful. The rest of us were speechless, knowing we all would have answered the way Ellie had. We sat silently, searching desperately for an answer that didn't sound so patronizing. "Think of it this way," Lyle offered, "We are not saving poor, destitute people who cannot save

themselves. We are helping them build a community, because without community the world is nothing."

An hour-long bus ride through the irrigated desert, our destination -Crew Port, our first day on the site. At that point we had yet to be disillusioned of our benevolent, superhero self-image. The majority of us still believed fully that we were on a noble mission to save the poverty-stricken from their dire straits. Our trite middle-class preconceptions of "poverty" were turned on their heads on that first day in Crew Port.

The majority of us still believed fully that we were on a noble mission to save the poverty-stricken from their dire

We left not quite knowing what to think -the area did not appear the way many of us had pictured it would. The most common reaction: "They didn't seem all that poor." Poor, in this case, was a relative term. At that point our definitions of "poor" came from things we had only read about or had seen on TV. We expected, I suppose, a scene not unlike those heart wrenching television

infomercials that portray small communities of makeshift shelters made of cardboard and dirty sheets -where people, half starving, drink out of dirty puddles and doe-eyed children stare blankly at the screen. We found a community that did not meet those expectations. The houses were not beautiful, but they were sturdy. The children were not starving, but energetic and enthusiastic, always eager to help. There may have been dirty puddles but they were hidden in the shadows of the lush, lovely gardens that flourished in every yard. It was not the kind of poverty we had seen on TV.

The poverty in Crew Port was not easy. It did not throw itself in your face and solicit your immediate sympathy. It was much more subtle, making itself known in ways that weren't always easy to see at first glance. Looking at one of the houses in Crew Port, you would never have known that the family living inside had been without water for two days -you would never have known that its inhabitants, young and old, rose from the places they slept, in beds or on



the floor, not knowing whether they would have a job that day -you would not have known that the children inside had watched their father get arrested and taken away by immigration, not knowing whether they would ever see him again -you would not have known that the people in the houses woke up every day in fear of their neighbors and all the people around them.

By simply looking at Crew Port you would never have known of the painful conditions in which its inhabitants lived every day. So much was hiding behind the facade of their pretty white fences, sturdy roofs and colorful flower beds.

The days passed hot and dry and on we worked. Pulling, sawing, reating, growing and building. Bit by bit the playground grew. Its progress seemed to manifest the unseen growth that was occurring on every level. The monkey bars took shape one day and that evening, at a fiesta we attended, I spoke Spanish with a Mexican woman as she taught me how to fry real taco shells from tortillas. I watched my peers laugh, smile, dance and play with the children for whom they were building the playground and next thing I knew, the swing set was up and running. It's amazing how quickly things can happen when people truly care about what they are doing and the goal they are working towards.

The work camp was a valuable experience on so many levels for every single person involved. I know that the lives of the people living in Crew Port will improve because of the playground we built. And, as I said before, I am not giving our group full credit for that progress, but I do believe that our presence helped jumpstart it. For those of us who volunteered, this experience was a reminder of how much goes on without our knowing. It reinforced the fact that we lead extremely sheltered lives and that, unless we make the effort to break out of our shells and learn what truly goes on in the world, we will live forever in our complacent ignorance.

Crew Port and other communities like it are overlooked by the government and society because the consensus seems to be that it is easier to simply ignore situations we label irrevocably doomed. My experience in Washington made me see that any effort, no matter how small or large, is significant in its own way. You don't have to reverse the effects of global warming or settle the disputes in the Middle East to have a positive impact on the world. Little



steps towards a big goal are the best way to get where you're going -patience and perseverance are what will ultimately get you there.

Margaret Mead said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." We were not superheroes in Crew Port -we did not swoop in and right every wrong in the community. We may have been the catalysts of the situation, but we are not the ones who will ultimately make Crew Port a better place. That will be done by the very people who live there. They have the will and the desire, our playground merely gave them a venue.

By the end of our first day in Crew Port, I was convinced that the people living there are just as eager to help themselves as we were to help them. That was probably the most signifi-

Check out some amazing fiction by YRUUer Elizabeth Anderson from Austin, Texas. See her story *The Midway House* on her website at

General Assembly Youth Caucus

June 20th-24th, 2002 Quebec City,

Frequently Asked Questions

What is General Assembly?

General Assembly is the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Its programming includes open business meetings in which delegates speak and vote, (this is called Plenary); workshops that any registered attendee may attend; worship services scattered throughout the days and nights; a large exhibit hall with displays from congregations, departments of the UUA, and other UU or UU-related organizations; and tons of other great events, meetings and fun programs! Around 4,000 UU children, youth and adults gather at GA and take the city over for a week. While GA has a contingent of youth, it is not a youth con.

What is Youth Caucus at General Assembly?

Youth Caucus is the blanket term for all youth programming that happens at General Assembly. Youth Caucus is a group of UU youth, ages 14-20, that participates in regular General Assembly programming and holds programming specifically for youth, including daily meetings to discuss and take part in GA business. All youth are welcome to participate in Youth Caucus.

What about housing? And roommates?

This year at GA the youth office will not be organizing housing or roommates for members of youth caucus. We are encouraging youth and their sponsors to stay in the Youth Hostel in Quebec City, but they can stay in any hotel in the city. There is information about hotels on the GA web page, check out www.uua.org/ga. Youth and their sponsors are also required to stay in the same housing during GA, this does not mean the same room (but it could) it means the same building.

Who supervises the youth?

Each youth under 18 who attends GA must have an adult sponsor, also present at GA, who is ultimately responsible for supervision and ensuring the well-being of the youth. People age 25 and over may sponsor up to three youth, with whom they are responsible for checking-in frequently and providing support. Youth sponsors are to stay in the same hostel/hotel as the youth they are sponsoring. Youth Caucus staff is responsible for youth programming and support at GA, but not supervision. However, Youth Caucus staff, in conjunction with the Energy Committee does take action regarding violations of the Code of Ethics, which may result in the youth being asked to leave Youth Caucus, or General Assembly at his/her own expense. In such an event, the

sponsor is responsible for getting the youth home safely.

How much does General Assembly cost?

There are a number of costs associated with General Assembly. Youth Registration is \$130 US (if received before May 1st). The Youth Caucus fee is \$25 US. Travel and food are up to each individual participant, although food can usually be found for under \$15 US a day (although we budget \$32 US a day for staff members.)

What is a youth sponsor? For what are sponsors responsible?

A youth's sponsor serves as his/her legal guardian for the duration of General Assembly. S/he may be a parent, relative, minister, youth advisor, religious educator, or another person trusted by the youth's full legal guardian(s). Youth are responsible for finding their own sponsors. Sponsors may sponsor up to three youth at General Assembly. The role of a sponsor at General Assembly is the following:

- 1) Provide supervision for the youth s/he is sponsoring at General Assembly.
- 2) Meet daily (minimum) with the youth for whom s/he is responsible.
- 3) Attend Youth Caucus Orientation and required sponsor training.
- 4) Be available in case of medical emergency as legal guardian.
- 5) Be available to provide housing for youth in case the youth for whom s/he is responsible is asked to leave youth housing.
- 6) Stay in the same hotel as the youth for whom s/he is responsible.
- 7) Be supportive and encouraging of full youth participation in the greater General Assembly community.

What if I have more questions? Where can I get more information?

For answers to all of our Frequently Asked Questions, check out our website at www.uua.org/YRUU and/or the General Assembly Office website at www.uua.org/ga. If you still have questions, email the Youth Office at yruu@uua.org or the GA Office at goffice@uua.org. All GA youth registrants receive a confirmation letter and a Youth Caucus prepaket upon receipt of all the forms (after May 1st). The prepaket explains Youth Caucus further, outlines the events and activities that are hap-



Instructions on Filling out these forms

I am so glad that you are interested in General Assembly this year. Youth programming is going to be amazing and we are hoping that Youth Caucus will continue to make a big impact on the business of the Unitarian Universalist Association. This year Youth Caucus is a little different, but change is exciting. Read on and everything will be explained.

1. First off if you are between 14 & 17 you must register for Youth Caucus. Youth Caucus, however, is open to everyone between 14 and 20.

2. If you plan on coming to General Assembly you need to fill out a registration form with the General Assembly Office. There is a separate form to fill out for Youth Caucus. The Youth Caucus form is available online in a printable version and also in a version you can fill out online. Please send the General Assembly registration form to the GA office. The Youth Caucus forms should be sent to the Youth office. If you register online, you can pay the General Assembly Registration Fee and Youth Caucus with a credit card, other wise you can send one check for \$155 US to the GA office.

3a. How to fill out the Youth Caucus form. The Youth Caucus form consists of sections where you will need to list your vital information, such as your name, address and so on, it is really straightforward. The form also has several sections where youth, parents/guardians, and sponsor signatures are required. All signature lines are in bold type, to make them easier to find.

3b. Code of Ethics and Rules. All Youth Caucus members must sign the statement signifying agreement to the behavioral guidelines of the Code of Ethics. The text of the Code of Ethics is located on the next page; again, please read the Code of Ethics thoroughly and carefully, and understand what you are signing. We encourage parents/guardians, youth, and sponsors to discuss this Code of Ethics with each other.

4 Youth Caucus Scholarships This section is for youth who are applying for Youth Caucus Scholarships. If you are not, skip it. If you are applying for a Youth Caucus Scholarship,

please check off the box signifying that you are applying and include a letter of need with your forms. The early deadline for applications to be accepted is May 15th. The letter must state why you want to go to General Assembly and describe your financial situation, including describing possible other sources of funding to get you to General Assembly. If you are applying to be a volunteer at General Assembly or are applying for a delegate scholarship, please check the appropriate boxes. If you are awarded a scholarship, we do not credit your account with your reward. We send you a check for the amount you are awarded and expect that you will send us a check for the full balance.

5. Parent/Guardian Consent and Medical Release form. All members of Youth Caucus must fill out this form, regardless of whether you are over 18 or not. If you are over 18 you don't need a parent or sponsor signature, but we still need the medical release information.

Youth Office Intern Apply Today

Calling all high schoolers, college students, and un-schoolers, any YRUU age person!

Logistics:

The internship is three months, approximately 10-12 hours a week, and includes a stipend of \$1000. The intern must also have living arrangements in the Boston area. Internship start date is negotiable upon hire. Please send in a resume, 2 references (with phone numbers), and a letter of intent.

Qualities Desired:

Youth group experience, leadership experience (in YRUU or other venues), office experience and computer know-how (web-design abilities are very desirable)

A good sense of humor and the ability to work with others.

Requirements:

The youth office interns take on tasks of their own choosing, such as a resource or personal project for YRUU. The Youth Office has quite a few projects that we could use interns help on. Some of the projects are as follows:

- Resource revision and creation
 - Social action conference resource
 - Articulating our faith
 - Social justice and anti-oppression resources
 - Youth group handbook
 - Resources on the web
- Deadline is June 1st.

Internships will be announced June 5th. If you are willing to take an unpaid internship please include that in your application.

Coming of Age
Send Applications to:
Youth Office/ Intern
25 Beacon St



Code of Ethics:

(all youth and sponsors must)

I am attending the 2002 General Assembly in Quebec City, Quebec Canada. I understand my behavior will affect the Youth Caucus community. While attending GA

I will:

1. Act in ways that encourage the well being, safety, and best interests of the youth and all those attending GA.
2. Follow the YRUU Policy on Sexuality and Community (see next column).
3. Respect my roommates, the larger GA community, and those in the hotel and the city who are not part of the GA community.
4. Follow the laws of the city, province and country.

I understand:

5. The UUA Youth Office does not provide adult supervision for those under 18 during the week of GA, and therefore I will work out a system of communication with my sponsor during the week of GA that is mutually satisfying.
6. That General Assembly is not a youth conference, which means that:
 - Youth are responsible for managing their own time.
 - Youth are not required to stay on site.
 - Sponsors act as legal guardians for youth under 18.

I accept that:

7. If any rule violation occurs, a committee of youth, my sponsor, sponsoree and parents may all be called into work on consequences for my actions (for more information see Energy Committee in the next column).
8. Youth Caucus is an alcohol free community no matter what age.
 - * For all those a part of Youth Caucus (youth and sponsors) drinking of alcohol is prohibited.
9. If I am a youth in a leadership position (delegate, staff, Youth Council member, etc.), I have read, understood, and will abide by the Code of Ethics for Youth in Leadership Positions.

YRUU Policy on Sexuality and Community

Our goal is to uphold healthy communities and healthy relationships and to discourage sexual activity and harassment in the conference community.

Healthy relationships are based on responsibility, respect, love, and commitment. Healthy sexual relationships are respectful, consensual, pleasurable, safe, caring, developmentally appropriate, and based on mutual expectations. Sexuality is an important part of young people's lives.

In the conference community, youth are encouraged to express themselves in healthy ways and respect each other's boundaries. However, behavior that breaks down the community, including sexual activity and sexual harassment, is inappropriate and therefore not permitted in a conference setting.

It is the job of the Energy Committee to, by these standards, deem any such behavior inappropriate and to determine consequences. Parents, guardians, sponsors, and youth are encouraged to discuss this policy with each other.

What is the Energy Committee
 The Energy Committee deals with serious problems and rule infractions. Its membership consists of one chaplain, the HUUPER, possible other youth staff and youth from Youth Caucus. The energy committee reserves the right to define behavior as inappropriate. The Energy Committee only meets when serious concerns are brought forth by members of the GA community.

Code of Ethics for Youth in Leadership Positions

Youth in leadership positions are uniquely visible and influential in any conference community. They should recognize that power imbalances exist in their interactions with other conferees. Inappropriate sexual behavior is never acceptable; additionally, youth leaders should remain aware of



General Assembly Youth Caucus

official youth caucus form general assembly quebec city, quebec 2002

send forms to Youth Office/ UUA 25 Beacon St. Boston, MA 02108

This form is Due May 15th, 2002

Name: Last _____	ZIP/ Postal Code: _____
First _____	Phone: _____
Address: _____	Email: _____
_____	Birthdate: _____
City: _____	UUA District: _____
State/Province: _____	Congregation: _____

I am (check all that apply)

female

transgendered

male

a first time GA attendee

Canadian

a US citizen

a person of color

multiracial

white/european

a youth in a leadership

posi- tion (delegate,

youth council

member, staff

14-17

Housing

I know that all youth are responsible for booking their own housing. If I am under 18, I know I need to have a sponsor who is older than 25. I also understand that we are required to stay in the same hotel/hostel.

My sponsor and I will be staying at:

Name of Hotel: _____

Phone number of Hotel: _____

Signature of Youth: _____

Signature of Sponsor: _____

Youth Caucus Scholarships

Due to financial need, I am requesting a youth caucus scholarship. I have attached a separate sheet with the following information:

- 1) Why I want to go to General Assembly
- 2) A description of my financial situation, including other sources of funding to get me a General Assembly

I am also applying for these scholarships/volunteer positions:

I am applying to volunteer at General Assembly (by March 31st)

I am applying for a scholarship from the GA of fice (by April 25)

Code of Ethics

I, _____, have read and understand the Code of Ethics. I agree to abide by these guidelines for the duration of General Assembly 2002. I understand that if I break this agreement, the Energy Committee reserves the right to take action which may include removing me from Youth Caucus or General Assembly at my own expense and prohibiting me from attending future continental YRUU events.

Youth Signature: _____

Don't

forget to send in the Parent and Sponsor forms too. They are also due May 15th, 2002



General Assembly Youth Caucus

official youth caucus form general assembly quebec city, quebec 2002

send forms to Youth Office/ UUA 25 Beacon St. Boston, MA 02108

make a copy for your records This form is Due May 15th, 2002

All youth must fill out and sign this form FORMS FOR PARENTS AND SPONSORS

Please print or type

PARENT/GUARDIAN'S CONSENT AND MEDICAL RELEASE FORM

I, _____ am the parent or legal guardian of _____. I give my consent for him/her to attend General Assembly in Quebec City, Canada. I understand that my child/ward is attending General Assembly as a participant and will not be enrolled in a structured, supervised program. My child/ward is responsible for coordinating his or her own time. I give my consent and authority for the General Assembly staff or designated adult to take action to help insure the safety, health and welfare of my son/daughter/ward. I understand that if s/he breaks any federal/state/provincial or local laws, s/he will be asked to leave the General Assembly and I will be informed. I also request and authorize the GA Youth Caucus Staff, and medical staff, personnel, agents and employees of Quebec City Hospitals to provide all medical care, including but not limited to hospital tests, emergency surgical care, pathology, radiology and anesthesia, surgery and prescriptive drugs advisable for the health of my child. I acknowledge that no warranties or guarantees as to results or cures will be made.

The name of child covered by this authorization is:

Last name _____ first name _____ middle _____ Age _____

Parent/Legal Guardian _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Phone _____

Business Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Phone _____

In Case of Emergency Contact: (during GA June 20-25)

Name _____

Day Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

Health Care Information

Name of Dentist/Orthodontist _____ Phone _____

Name of Doctor _____ Phone _____

Do you carry family medical/hospital insurance yes no

Name of parent/person with insurance policy _____

Health Insurance Agency: _____

Policy # /Group #: _____

Medications currently being taking: _____

Allergies/Medical conditions: _____

Date of last tetanus shot? _____

Is your child under the care of a physician? Epilepsy yes no Diabetes yes no

Other _____

Parent Attendance and Sponsor Information

__ I will attend GA and will act as my child/ward's sponsor.

__ I will attend GA and will not act as child/ward's



General Assembly Youth Caucus

Forms
for Parents
and
Sponsors

Official youth caucus form general assembly quebec city, quebec 2002

FORMS FOR PARENTS AND SPONSORS

Please print or type
PARENTAL PERMISSION FOR SPONSORSHIP (FOR YOUTH UNDER 18)

I _____, give my permission for _____ to be the sponsor for my child at GA 2002, June 20-25th.

- The sponsor is 25 years old or older.
- This means I am giving the sponsor the full responsibility for the health and well-being of my child during GA and will act as their guardian on my behalf.
- I understand that my youth and their sponsor are required to be in the same hotel/hostel at GA.
- I understand the Code of Ethics and Policy on Sexuality the Youth Caucus members must abide by and have discussed these policies fully with both my child and their sponsor.
- I understand that youth under the age of 18 will be referred to their sponsor for any Youth Caucus rule violations.
- I understand the GA Youth Caucus staff does not provide supervision of youth at GA and I have discussed my child's supervision with my child and their sponsor.
- I understand that the drinking age in Quebec is 18 and the Youth Caucus members are bound by a code of ethics not to drink.
- I understand that sponsors will also not be drinking at GA and will be abiding by the same code of ethics as the youth.
- I have discussed the drinking policy with the sponsor and discussed the consequences of rule violations.
- I have discussed with the sponsor about him/her meeting with my youth once a day, being available for support, being able to arrange travel home in case youth is asked to leave due to rule violations, and availability in case of emergencies.

Sponsor's Signature _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature _____

ADULT SPONSOR RESPONSIBILITIES

I am attending the 2002 General Assembly in Quebec City, Canada and will sponsor _____ Sponsorship means that I take responsibility for the well-being, safety, and best interests of this youth at GA.

- I understand that the UUA Youth Office does not provide adult supervision for the week (although there will be several adults working with the Youth Caucus and available for support and assistance).
- I agree to attend a training for sponsors that takes place during General Assembly.
- I understand that Youth Caucus is not a youth conference, but rather an opportunity for UU Youth who want to participate in the General Assembly to be able to gather and address specific youth concerns.
- I will work out a system of communication with this youth during the week of GA that is mutually satisfying. I recognize that this youth has agreed to abide by all state/provincial and local laws while attending General



General Assembly Youth Caucus

Official youth caucus form general assembly quebec city, quebec 2002
send forms to Youth Office/ UUA 25 Beacon St. Boston, MA 02108
This form is Due May 15th, 2002
make a copy for your records

Forms for Parents and Sponsors

- I understand the code of ethics includes not drinking alcohol at GA and that both the youth and I are bound by this code. I pledge not to drink at GA.
- I have discussed appropriate consequences for this youth's actions with their parents.
- I am not sponsoring more than a total of three Youth GA.

I have never been found guilty, pled guilty, or pled no contest to a criminal charge.
True Not true

No civil lawsuit alleging actual or attempted sexual discrimination, harassment, exploitations, or misconduct; physical abuse; child abuse; or financial misconduct has ever resulted in a judgment being entered against me, been settled out of court, or been dismissed because of the statute of limitations has expired.
True Not True

I have never terminated my employment, professional credentials, or service in a volunteer position or had my employment, professional credentials, or authorization to hold a volunteer position terminated for reasons related to allegations of actual or attempted sexual discrimination, harassment, exploitation, or misconduct; physical abuse; child abuse; or financial misconduct.
True Not True

I have a valid drivers license.
yes no

With respect to my driving record, I have not had my license suspended or revoked within the last five years due to reckless driving or driving while intoxicated and or under the influence of a controlled substance.
True Not True

If any of the above are NOT TRUE Please explain.

Is there any fact or circumstance involving you or your background that would call into question your being entrusted with the responsibilities of the position for which you are applying?
yes no
If yes, please provide a brief explanation

Sponsor's residence during GA: _____

Contact phone at GA: _____

Relationship to youth: _____

RETURN by May 15, 2002 to the Youth Office, UUA, 25 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108. For additional information on Youth Caucus, contact the UUA Youth Office at (617) 742-2100 x351, or yruu@ua.org.



CON CON 2002

The nineteenth annual Young Religious Unitarian Universalist Continental Conference
August 12 - 18, 2002
Camp Roganunda
Washington State

Con Con is open to youth aged 14-20 and to adult advisors aged 25 and above. If you wish to attend Con Con and don't fit into these categories, please contact the Youth Office

Frequently Asked Con Con Questions

What is Con Con?

Con Con is the annual Continental Conference of YRUU. Every year 100-300 youth gather somewhere on the North American Continent to worship, go to workshops, hang out and have fun for 5 days. This year, Con Con is at the BEAUTIFUL Camp Roganunda in Washington State's Cascade Mountain range.

What's a touch group/how can I lead one?

A touch group is a small youth-led group within the larger conference community. Each conferee is assigned to a touch group, which meets daily throughout the conference. Through games, activities and sharing, touch groups create a comfortable, trusting atmosphere which helps incorporate the individual into the community. *Are you interested in leading a touch group? Write why you're interested in leading a touch group and mail it in with your registration.* Katie Whitworth the ID/Touch Group Coordinator will get in touch with you.

Why do you ask about "youth of color"?

YRUU is working on becoming an anti-racist, multicultural organization. Part of this effort is to help to empower youth of color to take on leadership roles and to apply for scholarship funding when appropriate. We also keep a database of Youth of Color in order to better inform them of Youth of Color Events.

What if I want to attend Con Con as an adult advisor?

Adults wishing to attend Con Con must include a brief letter of intent stating why you are interested in being an advisor for Con Con with your registration, and provide two reference names (one youth and one adult) and their phone numbers. Adult registrants for Con Con will be screened in order to better ensure a safe conference community. Also, non-staff adult participants are required to pay the full Con Con registration fee. For info on how to offset the costs of Con Con as an adult, contact the Youth Office.

How does this registration thing work?

You send us your registration forms along with either the deposit or a scholarship application, then we send you a letter either confirming your registration or a letter telling you that you have been put on the waiting list. If you have been put on the waiting lists you will be notified by June 15th about whether or not there is enough space for you at Con Con.

Make travel plans only after receiving a letter confirming your registration!!!

How much does Con Con cost?

Con Con this year costs \$355 USD. Yes, we know that it's a lot of money, and if we could reduce the fee, we would. The deposit is \$75 USD. *If you have trouble raising the registration fee for Con Con, we recommend that you apply for a scholarship or contact the Youth Office for creative ways of getting the money.* We also have an early bird special. If you send us your registration by **June 15**, it will only cost you **\$325 USD**.

How can I get a scholarship to attend?

There are a limited number of financial need-based scholarships to Con Con. To apply, send a letter to the Youth Office with your registration form stating your specific financial need situation. Include a letter from your minister, advisor, or an involved UU youth describing your circumstances. *Scholarship applications must be postmarked by May 15*, recipients will be informed by June 1st. If you are not awarded a scholarship, we must receive your deposit by June 15th to continue to hold a space for you; also check the YRUU website for updates about scholarship information.

What if I have more questions?

How do I contact the Youth Office?

First, you should look at the FAQ at <http://uaa.org/YRUU/continental/conconfaq.html>. If that doesn't answer your questions, email us at: yruu@uaa.org, or call us at (617) 948-4352. A pre-packet with more detailed information regarding Con Con will be mailed to conferees in June.



RULES , CONSEQUENCES , AND CONFERENCE COMMUNITY

Guidelines

**No drugs, weapons or alcohol.
No pets.
No leaving the conference site.
No violating the policy on sexual behavior.
Adults must remain in the role of advisor at all times.
All participants must have a signed medical release.
Participants must follow the Con Con site rules.
Con Con Staff, Adults, Youth Council Members and Steering Committee will review and sign the Code of Ethics.**

who abuse their roles as leaders, consciously or not, can damage individuals and the community. Youth leaders are expected to use their influence in a positive manner.

ADULTS

Adults are in a position of stewardship and play a key role in fostering the spiritual development of both individuals and the community. It is therefore especially important that adults be qualified to nurture and provide the special care and support that will enable youth to develop a positive sense of self and responsibility. The relationship between young people and adults must be one of mutual respect if the positive potential of their relationship is to be realized. Adults will be prescreened and called for interviews to ensure they will be appropriate members of the conference community. Background checks maybe required.

There are no more important areas of growth than those of self-worth and the development of a healthy identity as a sexual being. Adults play a key role in assisting youth in these areas of growth. Wisdom dictates that youth and adults suffer damaging effects when leaders become sexually involved with a person in their care; therefore, adults will refrain from engaging in sexual, seductive, or erotic behavior with youth. Neither shall they sexually harass or engage in behavior with youth which constitutes verbal, emotional, or physical abuse. Adults shall be informed of the Code of Ethics and agree to it before assuming their roles. In cases of violation of this code, appropriate action will be taken.

THE POLICY ON SEXUALITY AND COMMUNITY

Our goal is to uphold healthy communities, healthy relationships and to discourage sexual activity and harassment in the conference community.

Healthy relationships are based on responsibility, respect, love, and commitment. Healthy sexual relationships are respectful, consensual, pleasurable, safe, caring, developmentally appropriate, and based on mutual expectations. Sexuality is an important part of young people's lives.

In the conference community, youth are encouraged to express themselves in healthy ways and respect each other's boundaries. However, behavior that breaks down the community, including sexual activity and sexual harassment, is inappropriate and therefore not permitted in a conference setting.

It is the job of the Energy Committee to, by these standards, deem any such behavior inappropriate and to determine consequences. Parents, Guardians, and youth are encouraged to discuss this policy with each other.

**If you are a:
Con Con staff member
Adult Advisor
Youth Council member
YRUU Steering Committee member
You must review and sign this additional
Code of Ethics in order to attend Con Con.
Code of Ethics**

SPIRIT COMMITTEE & ENERGY COMMITTEE

The Spirit Committee consists of representatives from each touch group. It will be attentive to conference problems and moods, acting as the eyes and ears of the conference and will share any concerns with the Energy Coordinators, who chair the Spirit Committee. This bunch of bright-eyed early birds is also responsible for waking up the conference.

The Energy Committee deals with serious problems and rule infractions. Its members include one of the Energy Coordinators, one Con Con Dean, the Youth Programs Director, three elected Spirit Committee members, the Touch Group Coordinator, and a Chaplain. The Energy Committee reserves the right to define behavior as inappropriate. The Energy Committee only meets when serious concerns are brought forth by the Spirit Committee or members of the conference community.

YOUTH & ADULTS IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Youth in leadership positions are uniquely visible and influential in any conference community. They should recognize that power imbalances exist in their interactions with other conferees. Inappropriate sexual behavior is never acceptable; additionally, youth leaders should remain aware of the impact of their actions and behave accordingly. Youth

LAST

FIRST

YOUTH CODE OF ETHICS

I _____ (participant), have read and understood the Con Con Guidelines, and the Policy on Sexuality and Community. I agree to abide by these guidelines for the duration of Con Con 2002. I understand that if I break this agreement, the Energy Committee reserves the right to take appropriate action which may include requiring me to leave the conference at my own expense and prohibiting me from attending future continental YRUU events. In addition, I certify that all of the information stated on my registration form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Participant: _____

X Date: _____

ADULTS AND YOUTH IN LEADERSHIP ROLES CODE OF ETHICS

I _____ (staff, adult staff, or adult), have read and understood the Con Con Guidelines, the Policy on Sexuality and Community, and the Code of Ethics for Adults and Youth in Leadership Positions. I agree to abide by these guidelines for the duration of Con Con 2002. I understand that if I break this agreement, the Energy Committee reserves the right to take appropriate action which may include requiring me to leave the conference at my own expense and prohibiting me from attending future continental YRUU events.

Signature of Staff or Adult: _____

X Date: _____

CONSENT AND MEDICAL RELEASE

I _____ (please print), am the parent or legal guardian of

_____, who will be attending the 2002 Continental Conference of the Young Religious Unitarian Universalists at Camp Roganunda. I hereby give my consent and authority for the conference staff to take any reasonable action to help ensure the safety, health, and welfare of my son/daughter/ward. I also give consent for any necessary medical treatment, including emergency surgical care, if needed. I further understand that my child/ward will be required to follow the rules of the site and the conference, and that any breach of these rules may result in my child/ward being disallowed to participate in the remainder of the conference. Should this happen, I understand that my child/ward may be sent home at his/her own expense and may be prohibited from participating in future continental YRUU conferences or events.

Signature of Parent or Guardian: _____
(Participants age 18 or older may sign for themselves)



X _____ Date: _____

Emergency Contact Information:

Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____ or (____) _____

Medical Treatment Info:

*Name of person with insurance policy (print) _____

*Health Insurance Agency: _____

*Policy # /Group #: _____

*Medications currently being taking: _____

*Allergies/Medical conditions: _____

*Date of your last tetanus shot: ____/____/____

LAST
NAME: _____
First
Name: _____
Last
Name: _____
Phone: __ (____) _____

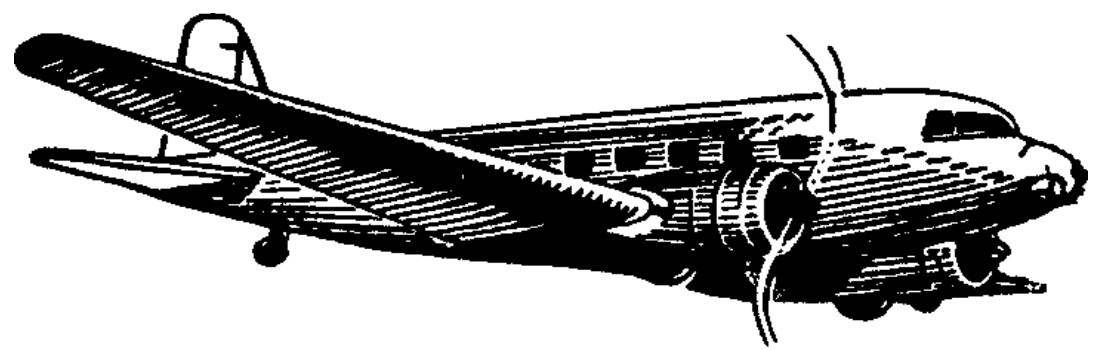
FIRST
NAME: _____
Required:
____ My consent and medical info form
____ My rules agreement form
____ My July first Mailing Address (if different)
____ My \$75 deposit or;
____ My letter requesting a scholarship

Optional:
____ A letter explaining why I would like to be a touch group leader
____ A description of my one-shot workshop idea

Special Categories:
____ I am a Con Con staff member and am including my signed Code of Ethics
____ I am a week-long workshop leader and am including my signed Code of Ethics
____ I am a attending Youth Council and am including my signed Code of Ethics
____ I am an adult advisor and am including a letter of intent to be an adult advisor at Con Con, two reference contacts (one youth, one adult), and my signed code of ethics. I have answered the screening questions.

Question please call (617) 948-4352

**Please make checks payable to:
"Unitarian Universalist Association"**
Registration is \$355USD. You can send in \$75USD non-refundable deposit to hold a space for you. There is also an early bird registration fee \$325USD, which is available until June 15th 2002. The Canadian rate this year is set at \$225 USD.



**Please send all registration forms and a check to:
YRUU Con Con Registration
c/o UUA Youth Office
25 Beacon St.
Boston, MA 02108**

Conference Switch-a-roo!!!

YRUU Social Justice Conference this Fall, Basic Advisor Training of Trainers March 2003

Ordinarily every fall the Youth Office hosts a Training of Trainers for either Leadership Development Conferences, Spirituality Development Conferences, or Basic Youth Advisor Trainings. Unitarian Universalist youth and adults come together to be trained to lead these fabulous conferences all over the continent. However, this is no ordinary year!!

Beginning this fall, the YRUU Social Justice Conference, a training of youth social justice organizers, will take place in November and the Training of Trainers will occur in March. This is so all the new Social Action Coordinators and local youth groups can get social justice training at the beginning of their year, and all of our conference trainers will be prepared for the high demand of LDCs, SDCs and Advisor Trainings in the fall. Good thinking, eh?

If you are a youth ages 14-20 and interested in doing social justice work in you church, school or community, you should come to the YRUU Social Justice Conference for skills training and an all-around good time!

Please check our web site at www.uua.org/YRUU for the latest information regarding both the YRUU Social Justice Conference

The School of the Americas

The US Army School of Americas (SOA), based in Fort Benning, Georgia, trains Latin American soldiers in combat, counter-insurgency, and counter-narcotics. Graduates of the SOA are responsible for some of the worst human rights abuses in Latin America. Among the SOA's nearly 60,000 graduates are notorious dictators Manuel Noriega and Omar Torrijos of Panama, Leopoldo Galtieri and Roberto Viola of Argentina, Juan Velasco Alvarado of Peru, Guillermo Rodriguez of Ecuador, and Hugo Banzer Suarez of Bolivia. Lower-level SOA graduates have participated in human rights abuses that include the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero and the El Mozote Massacre of 900 civilians.

On January 17, 2001 the SOA was replaced by the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHISC).

Hundreds of Unitarian Universalists have joined the thousands of interfaith organizers to close down the SOA. In the past two years there has been a surge of interest from UU youth and young adults. Come join the

THE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS FT. BENNING, GA

THE SOA PROTEST IS STRICTLY A NON-VIOLENT PROTEST. MANY PEOPLE ATTEND. THE BLACK FAMILIES, NUNS, YOUTH, RADICALS, HIPPIES, PUNK ROCKERS, MINISTERS, ADULTS, CELEBRITIES, TEACHERS, EVERYONE!

THE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS (THE SOA) IS A U.S. ARMY TRAINING SCHOOL IN GA WHICH TRAINS SOLDIERS FROM LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES IN TERRORIST TACTICS.

ON JAN 17, 2001 THE SOA WAS REPLACED BY THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION (WHISC).

THERE WERE THOUSANDS OF US!

WAR ON TERRORISM?
IRONIC I FIND IT THAT WE SAY WE ARE FIGHTING A WAR AGAINST ALL TERRORISTS YET WE TRAIN TERRORISTS HERE IN THE U.S!

YET THE NAME CHANGE WAS ONLY THAT, SAID

THE COMMUNITY DURING THE DAYS I WAS IN GA WAS AMAZING. STORIES WERE SHARED, GREAT FOOD WAS EATEN, AND A REAL COMMUNITY OF PEOPLE CREATED.

GEORGIA SENATOR AND SOA SUPPORTER, PAUL COVERDELL.

I WILL FOREVER RECALL THE ENERGY IN THE AIR DOWN THERE AS WELL AS ALL THE FRIENDS I BONDED WITH. IT WAS LIFE CHANGING.

JOIN US!

THE "COSMETIC" CHANGES WOULD STILL ENSURE ITS SAME MISSION AND OPERATIONS. IT IS A NEW NAME, BUT THE SAME SHAME!

SO THEN...

WE ORGANIZED & PROTESTED

Shea Schachameyer



We want you to be a YRUU Programs Specialist!

DO YOU HAVE WHAT
IT TAKES
TO BE A YPS?!

ARE you 16-22, energetic, organized and love YRUU? Do you want to give back to YRUU to in a profound way? Well, this is the best way to do it!

APPLY TO BE YPS!

Come live in beautiful Boston for a year. Work with the best and brightest Continental YRUU has to offer. Put your faith into Action. Make a long-lasting effect on YRUU and be remembered for your greatness. Learn skills and gain experience for the real world!

Check out the job description on the next page to see if this position is right for you!
Then get the application online at:
<http://www.uua.org/YRUU/youthoffice/pdfs/ypsapp.pdf>

If you have any problems at all getting this form, call the Youth Office at 617.948.4350, and we'll get you those forms.

Oh yes, yes we will.

Fall 2001 updated Job Description

YRUU Programs Specialist
 Department: Religious Education
 Reports to: Youth Programs Director
 (YPS are program staff)

Basic Responsibilities: To design and implement YRUU programs and publications of religious growth for Unitarian Universalist youth and act as a field consultant to districts and local congregations regarding YRUU programs.

Principal Responsibilities:

1. UUA/RE Dept.

Works in dual association with the Religious Education Department and Young Religious Unitarian Universalists with major responsibilities to both. Acts as liaison from Continental YRUU to the UUA Staff and serves as an active "youth presence" at Unitarian Universalist Association headquarters and at UUA meetings and events.

2. Programs/Events

Plans, designs, and implements YRUU programs of religious growth for Unitarian Universalist youth. Serves as a logistical resource and coordinator for Continental YRUU conferences, meetings and trainings. Edits Synapse, YRUU's Continental Youth Magazine. Writes Grants and coordinates fundraising for areas where funding is not sufficient.

3. Consultations and Liaisons

Acts as a YRUU consultant to the UUA at large, to districts, to congregations; acts as a field consultant regarding YRUU programs; assists congregations in the formation and promotion of new YRUU youth groups; plans, designs, and conducts workshops, trainings and leadership development seminars for and with youth and adults. Develops and maintains relationships with key committees, affiliates and departments as needed.

4. YRUU Governing Organizations

Administers YRUU Programs; in consultation with the YRUU Steering Committee and YRUU Youth Council, and Youth Programs Director to ascertain needs, identifies trends and issues, and evaluates the effectiveness of current youth programs and services; Coordinates the ongoing business of Steering Committee. Supports the decisions of the Youth Council and Steering Committee. Reports to Youth Council and Steering Committee.

7. Additional Responsibilities

Assumes additional responsibilities as requested by Youth Programs Director, Religious Education Department Director, the UUA President, Executive Vice President, or Financial Vice President.

Qualifications: Knowledge of youth ages 14-20 and their religious development; experience and expertise with youth, experience and expertise with YRUU Programming at the local, district, and continental levels; leadership ability and experience with both youth and adults; broad acquaintance with Unitarian Universalism and the Association; good office, computer and organizational skills, willingness to travel. Good written and verbal communication skills, the maturity and creativity to handle a busy fulltime job, have the freedom to live in the Boston area and will be between the ages of 16 and 22 at the time of application.

Term	Skill set	Continental Event	Start Date	Application Deadline
January	Web Design and Layout	Youth Council and ConCon	January 1	September 15
June	Resource Development and	Continental Trainings and the YSJC	June 1	December 15
September	Social Justice UUA Networking and	General Assembly	August 1	



Testimony of a Social Action

SAC is all about being a link for YRUUs to resources, projects,

All over the continent, Social Action Coordinators are working with youth in Districts to put their Unitarian Universalist beliefs into action. Misha Heller is the SAC for the Thomas Jefferson District, this is her testimony.

Almost every day I witness something that really gets on my nerves, which somehow inspires me to be involved with social action work. I am bothered when I hear friends casually insert the word "gay" derogatively into their vocabularies. When I see big corporations tearing down trees and polluting the air only to construct more shopping centers and restaurants to profit off of, I think about how our society constantly abuses our environments. When I come home from school and see homeless men outside of my neighborhood (in suburbia), I am sad and disappointed. I read about murders, executions, economic apartheid, and starving children constantly, and it scares me to fathom how violent and unhealthy our society has become.

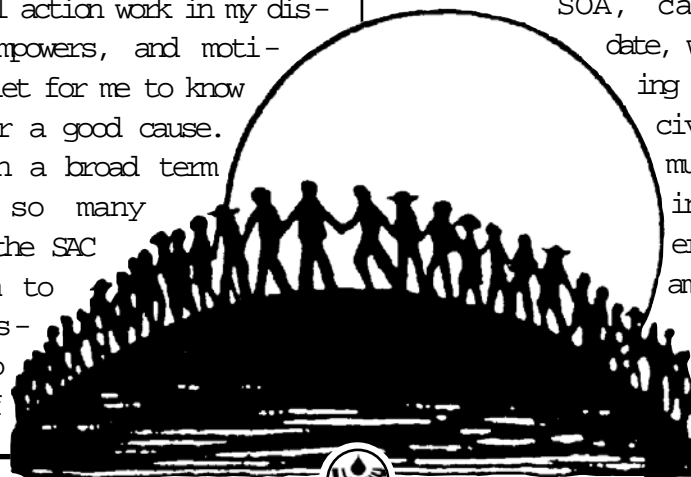
It is experiences and realizations like this that make me passionate about being Social Action Coordinator to my district. When I see or witness something that many people fail to acknowledge, or just straight up choose to ignore, I get aggravated, frustrated, disappointed, disgusted, perturbed, and so much more. Yet also, at the same time, being a part of social action work in my district invigorates, empowers, and motivates me. It's an outlet for me to know that I am working for a good cause. Social Action is such a broad term that encompasses so many issues, so it gives the SAC wide-ranging freedom to pursue different passions and issues. To me, the role of

projects, and action.

At conferences, workshops, and church my purpose is to spread general awareness about challenging authority, living our faith, and living healthy lives. I run social action oriented workshops at cons. I try to encourage other YRUUs to educate themselves on an issue that particularly interests them and to then transform that knowledge into a workshop or sharing of ideas. We take a reality check and reevaluate our own lives. We take advantage of our creativity and brains by blending them with our loves for all people and their well being, community, and the environment. We make art, music, theatre, tee shirts, poetry, food, and so much more.

I am accountable to the entire district for being able to connect them to the plethora of resources available that they might need for social justice projects this includes more than just reading material. It could be information about protests and demonstrations, vigils, boycotts, meetings, workshops, and people.

As SAC, I have realized that it is so vital that we all as UUs strive to be leaders to the greatest of our abilities, both within ourselves (whether it be changing the clothes we wear, consuming responsibly, the places we shop, the things we eat, the transportation we use, or our behavior at school) as well as externally (be it handing out flyers, protesting the SOA, campaigning for a candidate, writing letters and visiting senators, or practicing civil disobedience). We must as conscientious, intelligent, and empowered UUs take priority in amplifying our voices from whispers into echoes. We have all of the support, encour-



No More Prisons

by Marissa Gutierrez

A man is taking a shower in fear with a group of men. He clutches his soap as others suspiciously look up at him from time to time. With no warning, a group of men pounce on him; pinning his arms and legs down to the shower wall. Unable to struggle, this man is brutally raped.

Though this could just be a scene from the 1998 Tony Kaye drama American History X, this is also a scene from reality. Everyday reality, where the appalling truth is that "with a national prison population of two million in 1999, even at the lowest percentage, this means tens of thousands of male prisoners are raped daily." Our prisons are a violent cycle, turning those with minor crimes when they get out into dangerous menaces to society, opposite of what prisons are supposed to do. Due to its ineffectiveness and its violation of human rights, I firmly believe that there is vital need for reform in prisons, specifically in the United States.

Along with rape, cruelty such as the "gladiator fights" at the Corcoran SHU between 1988 and 1996 where "known enemies were released by guards to small group yards. Fights were certain. Guards bet on the outcome and videotaped the events for future viewing....seven prisoners died as a result." What occurred at Corcoran was absolutely

against all human rights whatsoever; even animals should not be treated this way, these fights resembling nothing less than cockfights.

Women are the foundation of civilization, the child-bearers, in which the U.S. government, to this very day forbids any woman to engage in military combat, yet the U.S. government permits women to face unspeakable conditions, worse than combat, each and every day. At the Valley State Prison

for Women SHU, women "suffer degrading treatment, threats, corporal punishment, and sexual harassment. Male guards observe strip searches, showering, and even gynecological exams." While at men prisons, they are permitted the "privilege" of a having male guards facilitating over showering, women are constantly being monitored by the opposite sex.

Groups such as UNITE and others around the world protest atrocious sweatshops which take advantage of human labor every day, but why don't people protest the slave labor found in prisons? "Some like CMT Blues, Microsoft, Boeing, TWA, and Victoria's Secret, are using low cost prison labor for every thing from manufacturing aircraft components and lingerie to booking reservations." Sweatshops are bad, no matter if they are children in Vietnam, or an adult convicted of drug abuse, human bodies remain human bodies.

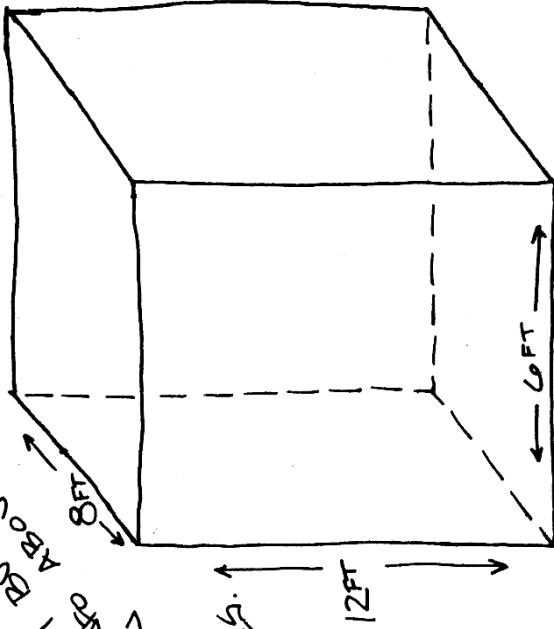
Along with using slave labor, prisons fail to accommodate those critically ill; those with AIDS are often ignored. When someone is in pain, it is cruelty towards another breathing human being to let them agonize in their own misery. When I had interviewed a Spanish interpreter, I was told that on a visit to a prison, she saw that a "child-molester, feeling remorseful for what he had done, attempted to castrate himself. Guards watching him bleed, simply stood and repeated 'Døjelo morir' [Let him die] to one another. Clearly the man had deserved a mental institution, even though he was the culprit of a very serious crime.

This is not the country I want to live in, where violence begets violence, and people will never be treated for illnesses that inflict them forever. By allowing prison conditions to stay this way, our country is simply taking a step back into the past. Until we are able to become the "change which we envision," the whisper of "døjelo morir, døjelo morir, døjelo morir...." will continue to echo in prisons not only in America, but throughout the world.

Marissa Gutierrez is the youth Social Action



★ BUILDING A REMEMBRANCE FOR THOSE IMPRISONED FOR THEIR BELIEFS ★



Supply List

- ① SIX 12FT 2X4S
- FOUR 8FT 2X4S
- ② TWENTY-FOUR BRACKETTES FOR THE CORNERS
- ③ DRYWALL SCREENS (1 1/2"-2")
- ④ POWER DRILL
- ⑤ DUMPSTERED CARDBOARD PANELS-LIKE FRIDGE BOXES
- ⑥ STAPLE GUN W/ STAPLES
- ⑦ MARKERS, PAINTS, POLITICAL PRISONER INFO
- ⑧ DUCT TAPE, CAUSE YOU NEVER KNOW.

- A.) FIND A SPACE THAT IS TALL TO BUILD THE CELL.
- B.) GET FRIENDS MOTIVATED TO HELP, THIS IS NOT A ONE WO/MAN JOB.
- C.) ASSEMBLE THE 2X4S SO THAT A 6IN X 6IN X 12IN FRAME IS MADE.
- D.) STAPLE THE CARDBOARD TO ALL BUT ONE SIDE OF THE CELL.
- E.) ATTACH CURRENT PICTURES, BIOS, AND CONTACT INFO OF POLITICAL PRISONERS ON THE WALLS.
- F.) TAKE A PICTURE AND SEND TO THE YOUTH OFFICE AND ALSO TO YOUR NEWSPAPERS!

Prison Political
Prisoners for Political

THIS IS A GREAT AWAKENING OF POLITICAL AWARENESS IMPRISONED IN THE U.S. THIS IS A GREAT WAY TO GET PRISONERS INVOLVED IN ACTIVITY. THIS IS A GREAT PROJECT FOR IMPRISONED PRISONERS TO BUILD A REMEMBRANCE FOR THOSE IMPRISONED FOR THEIR BELIEFS.

A Word from Ethan...

Click... Slide... Bang! That is the sound of a cell door opening and closing behind yet another young person being locked up. I don't know what it is about that sound, but I hear it in my heart as well as my ears each time another young adult witnesses those iron prison doors clang behind him.

I chose to talk about this issue because I came to prison in my youth. I know what it is to be young and foolish. I also know that it does not take years for an impressionable young man to be ready to change his ways.

I believe everyone should be held accountable for their actions. There are consequences for the choices we make. Sometimes that consequence needs to be prison. The injustice is in the length of sentences being handed out. I ask myself every day, Why so long?

A youngster in prison has two options. He can give up, become involved in all the games and drama of prison—drugs, gangs, fights, racism—or he can accept the fact that he is here until society deems he should get out, look at the choices he made that got him where he is, and find a direction he can take to move forward and find success. This is not always easy. Many young people have no outside support, no one to offer guidance, no history of success. I am fortunate, and I try to show gratitude for the blessings life has given me by being a role model and offering hope and camaraderie to young men who are looking for direction after they walk in these doors.

I found my focus in the area of life that I have always hung my hopes, my education. My family stressed to me that my education should be my most important goal, and I want to reach that goal of being an educated man.

I keep a quote by Malcolm X that says, Education is your passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for today.

That is what I am doing in here, preparing for my future.

I know it is not easy to be young and in prison. To every incarcerated youth I would say, Don't give up hope, prepare for your future, tomorrow will come, and it is within youth power to shape what kind of tomorrow you will have.

As my middle school principal used to say to

us every day, Your future is in your hands.

Ethan Thrower is a young Unitarian Universalist currently incarcerated in Pendleton, Oregon. Prior to his incarceration, Ethan was an active youth group member of the First Unitarian Church of Portland, Oregon. Ethan was sentenced to jail in 1998, currently his release is scheduled for August 4th, 2006. You can write to Ethan at:

#123 925 88

c/o E. O. C. I.

2500 Westgate

Pendleton, OR 97801

Coming Soon to a Congregation Near You: Youth & Young Adult Ministry Sunday - October 20, 2002

What? A Sunday Service dedicated to youth, campus and young adult ministry. Why? To celebrate, educate and raise funds in support of our growing movement and deepening vision. Join us in helping to connect Youth & Young Adults to the power of Unitarian Universalism. A glimpse of the vision: More Youth (14-20), Campus, and Young Adult (18-35) Ministries in districts, congregations and on campuses fostering welcoming, fun, spiritually alive and justice-centered communities. Training and support for diverse worships and social justice efforts. Retention of young UUs as they move through phases of life and from place to place. Money for Youth & Young Adult Ministry Hold up, Money? Yes. Moolah. Cashola. Fundraising. That is the part of the visioning that often causes us to start squirming a bit. Young Adults are a powerful community in the Unitarian Universalist world; imagine if we had funds to support our ambitious work. Great news! We begin to witness the benefits of C*UUYAN becoming a sponsored organization and our new relationship with the Young Adult & Campus Ministry Office. The UUA recognizes the vital potential in the younger age ranges and has decided to make Youth & Young Adults a major focus of the upcoming Campaign For Unitarian Universalism through this special Sunday.

Every Unitarian Universalist young adult and ally will be needed to help make this a successful campaign, so a shout out to all the readers of Fervent: Get Involved! The best way to interest others in this campaign is to show them that youth and young adults are donating money to serious about it.

1) Check out the latest news at
www.uua.org/sunday2002.

2) We'll be sharing stories about spiritually rockin' youth & young adults and related ministries on our web site. Please send us terrific tales and photos to spotlight.

3) Send a message. Donate. In the spirit of the Youth & Young Adult Sunday 2002, we ask all of you to give at least \$20.02 (and more if you can afford it).

4) Help create an intergenerational Youth & Young Adult Sunday Committee in your congregation or



Soap Box

by Heather Vail

youth empowerment activists to the cause. In online format, the Synapse magazine will no longer be able to function in this way.

Society gives us a box to live in and YRUU helps us think and live outside that box. But YRUU becomes a box too unless we keep thinking outside of the institution, and we keep reforming that institution to be truer to our ideals.

This Synapse that you hold in your hands right now may be the last one ever in "hard-copy" version. The UUA has cut funding for Synapse from the budget. After this edition it will turn into an online publication. This means that after years of looking forward to receiving Synapse in the mail twice a year, I will no longer have that. It's actually really depressing.

In my experience, online publications rarely compare to printed publications. As it is now, Synapse is currently sent all over the continent, so that youth with all levels of involvement can access it. No longer will a curious youth be able to pick up a copy of Synapse, flip through it, and want to become involved. The youth must instead actively search out the publication of Synapse to read it. It's ridiculous to expect that it will reach those youth who are not involved enough to know to search it out or do not have much access to technology. In paper form, Synapse can be read at one's leisure. That cannot be said about the online version; reading something off a computer screen is a lot less appealing.

The UUA cannot continue to assume that every Unitarian Universalist is middle-class or can access a computer for long enough to read a magazine of somewhere around forty pages. We are an organization that fights actively for social justice, but these actions are inconsistent with our principles. If we really want to make Unitarian Universalism friendly to people of all economic backgrounds, we cannot make our publications available only through the Internet. In addition to sending out a mailing, I think having Synapse online would be helpful. However, to rely on technology as the only way of dispensing this magazine reflects an assumption that everyone has this technology at his or her disposal. By changing the format of Synapse, a valuable piece of communication will be lost because the availability will be severely limited. YRUU, as an organization, is dependent on youth from all over the continent getting involved. Synapse plays a key role in actively "recruiting" Unitarian Universalist youth and

Synapse means so much to so many people. It serves as a communication device and a tool for local, district, and continental organization. It provides people with an arena in which to debate issues that are important to liberal youth in the greater UU community, and in society at large. Synapse gives thousands of youth the information needed to build leadership skills, access social action, challenge our minds, and nurture our faith. It gives readers, who may or may not be involved in their districts, the knowledge of continental happenings as well as opportunities and information for such things as General Assembly, Youth Council, social justice trainings, leadership trainings, and spirituality development. These conferences all serve to encourage youth to get together and actively apply our faith. Without this valuable convergence of ideas, I think that the YRUU structure will suffer deeply.

By changing Synapse to an online publication, we are limiting access to those youth who have a computer and who will actively search it out. To me, this suggests that only youth who are already involved will be able to use Synapse effectively. To relay the message to other youth we will have to resort to other forms of communication, the most obvious and universal of which is word of mouth. At best, this is very inconsistent. At worst, this will drastically decrease the number of youth that are involved continentally and sever the relationship between the district and continental levels.

It takes approximately \$12,000 a year to fund Synapse. The UUA deals with millions of dollars, and this is just a small part of that. In any organization, budget cuts can be quite common. However, it's very disappointing that Synapse was one of the things that was cut from the budget, considering all the other expenses that the UUA has. What's worse is that this decision was made by the UUA without consulting youth governing bodies (such as Youth Council). The funding for Synapse does come from the UUA budget, but youth were not given even the opportunity to take any cost-saving measures. This disempowers youth and does not reflect the youth-friendly atmosphere that the UUA prides itself on.

For these and many other reasons, I am so disturbed that Synapse magazine has been cut, and I am going to do as much as I possibly can to try and reverse this decision. I urge you

Keep us in the know!!!

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
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 948-4350
Fax (617) 742-0321
Email: yruu@uaa.org

My Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State: _____
Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
Birthdate: _____
Congregation: _____
Positions in YRUU? (YAC member, con dean...): _____

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

As Synapse goes online, it's important that we keep track of where YOU are! In the next few months, you will have access to Connect UU, a database shared by the YRUU and Young Adult/Campus Ministries of UUA. If you're already in our database, you can keep your contact information current. If you're not, you can create an account for yourself and be a part of the next generation of Synapse! In June/July, go to: [http://www.uua.org/con-](http://www.uua.org/con)

YRUU at the UUA
25 Beacon St.
Boston, MA 02108
ADDRESS-SERVICE-REQUESTED

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Boston, Mass.
Permit No.8652

GA AND
CONCON
REGISTRATION
FORMS INSIDE!!

