

S Y N A P S E

Volume XXI
Issue I

A point of contact where information and energy are exchanged.

art beautiful

Vanim
ALYE
ZAP
The Power of Language
= awareness

Erin Stephens-North 2003

Volume XXI
Issue I

A point of contact where information and energy are exchanged..

art
more beautiful

awareness

Erin Stephens-North 2003

Letters to the Editor



A letter from Spring of 2001

I just want to send a shout out to all the YRUU kids out there. It is really inspiring and wonderful to see that YRUU is still the best thing since sliced bread.

I saw a bunch of stuff around whether Synapse should be free to print whatever it wanted to print. I felt very sad. If this sort of thing happens again, write letters to the UUA World in protest. Raise a ruckus. Be a prophetic voice that says, "This is wrong!" Take action. You are the future of the UU movement. If people fail to listen to the voice of youth, then our movement will die.

Youth in this denomination have a long history of %#@&*@!\$^!# up. It was, in part, the leadership of youth that eventually brought Unitarians and Universalists together into one denomination. It was with the help of the leadership of youth eight years later (1969) that caused a significant protest over race at GA. Youth have made so many contributions to this religious movement that they deserve to speak in their own voice even if it pisses people off.

Don't be passive. The adult leadership in this denomination have walked over youth before. Don't let them do it again. Youth have made great contributions to our religious movement simply by repeatedly refusing to be silenced. This religious movement needs the vitality and spiritual force of youth almost more than the youth need the movement.

Remember these two words: Youth Empowerment. Remember that YRUU is a vehicle to empower youth, that is, to put youth in positions of power over their own lives. Take that power and live it. If anyone tries to take it away from you, don't even think about giving in without a fight. Read up on the history of the youth movement within the UUA. There are many oppressive, authoritarian and anti-youth institutions in the world -- it is your duty as youth to ensure that the UUA is not one of them.

love and phuuufs,

Dan Kappus
former youth -- Atlanta, GA

[Note: The views expressed in Letters to Synapse do not necessarily reflect the policies of the UUA.]



I'm **Bryan Beck** and I am the outgoing **January YPS**. Being YPS was a dream of mine for years, and it has been an amazing experience. I love Mexican food, autumn weather, Western Massachusetts, and I'm just a little obsessed with Hiphop. If you spend any time with me, you'll hear a lot of Slug from Atmosphere. I used to be a nanny and once I leave Boston, I hope to return to childcare either for a preschool or for a family. YRUU has been my family for nine years and I cannot say enough to express my gratitude.



Sup y'all? i'm **Megan Selby**, the **June YPS**. i like to dance, bake vegan goods, be from the MID-WEST, be loud, listen to the same album over and over and over and... for more info check out my friendster profile (soon to be myspace). I also LOVE to work in the youth office. let ME work for YOU!



Hey, it's **Jason Lydon** -- look at that, not behind bars anymore! I'm the **September YPS** and spend most of my time organizing around anti-racism programming that the Youth Office is involved in. I am also the main youth office contact for ConCon and Youth Council after Bryan takes off. I can also be asked questions about GA as I work on that too. When I'm not at work I'm chillin' around my home in Jamaica Plain with my kool kat housemates or off eating yummy vegan snacks.

Would you like to have your letter printed in Synapse? Did you see something that you really liked? Did you see something that made you want to start a fire with a pile of Synapses? Well this is your chance to speak up so you better use it. If you send us something that you would like to go in this section we will most likely use it, so please send us your letters to tell us what you think.





Heyo, it's Ethan Field! Born in the northeast and raised Ohio, I grew up in OMD and continental YRUU in the late '80s and early '90s. After studying physics and religion in

college, I spent three years teaching high school physics in Tanzania (East Africa) with the Peace Corps. I came to the Youth Office in April 2002. As **Youth Office Assistant**, I manage the YRUU database, act as registrar for all C*YRUU conferences, send out resources, manage the office finances, schedule tours of the Y.O., and am the person behind 'yruu@uua.org'. In my free time, I enjoys being in my church's UU Young Adult group, playing music, and gettin' my groove on.



Hello All! I am the Youth Programs director here at the UUA. I got involved with Unitarian Universalism when I was in ninth grade, through the YRUU group in Madison Wisconsin. It was a completely transformative experience. I was an active local leader who helped grow the Madison group from about 15 members my freshmen year to over 70 by the time I

graduated from high school. I was also involved with the Central Midwest District YAC for three years and served one year on Youth Council in 1992. Since that time I have considered myself an Evangelical Unitarian Universalist. I strongly believe that UUism and YRUU have a saving message of love, respect and justice that needs to be spread as far as possible. In my life outside the UUA, I have been married for two years to my wife Natalie, and we just had our first child, Lorn, in August. Lorn has taught me something new every day of his life. From my college days living in Montana I love the outdoors, including hiking when there is no snow and skiing and snowshoeing when there is. As I travel to local and district UU communities, as well as attend continental events, I hope to meet as many of you as possible.

Would you like to work in Boston with us? Well, then read on to learn how you can score an internship in the Youth Office.

[It's on page 9]

Continental Calendar Fall 2003

November 13-17	YRUU Social Justice Conference
November 14	C*LDC applications due
November 21-23	SOA Vigil and Nonviolent Civil Resistance Action
November 28	June YPS applications due
December 5	ConCon Staff applications due
January 8-11	Steering Committee Meeting
January 22 - 25	Anti-Racism Leadership Development Conference
February 5 - 8	Continental Leadership Development Conference
February 13	September YPS applications due
February 13	PoCC applications due
February 13	Youth Council At-Large applications due
April 30	GA scholarships due
June 23 - 28	2004 GA in Long Beach, CA





from the editor

The summer I spent in Federal Prison for speaking out against terrorist training at the School of the

Americas (WHINSEC)¹ in Ft. Benning, GA, my inmate work detail was teaching English as a second language to women prisoners from Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. The Federal Bureau of Prisons required that I not speak to them in their native language in the classroom.

I thought about what my friend who had spent time in Chiapas, Mexico told me—that a lot of the indigenous languages of that part of the country have disappeared and the Spanish of the Conquistadors is all that remains in some places. At the time I was reading about Haiti and the cessation of Creole from the schools there. One woman named Yanique Guiteau Dandin spoke about her experience of living under the American-backed dictator who was responsible for that campaign. “When they told us not to speak Creole,” she said, “it was like telling us not to speak.”²

Teaching English was exciting. It felt empowering and fulfilling. But uncomfortable too, knowing how many times in history language “immersion” has resulted in cultural theft, robbing people of their identity and future generations of a rich facet of diversity.

Meanwhile, back in Boston, a new issue of Synapse was being born, dedicated to the theme “The Power of

Language”. The struggle to save Synapse gave me hope—it told me that the youth out there are really aware of what it means to have a “synapse” or “a point of contact where information and energy are exchanged.” In a world where our survival depends on our ability to communicate, it was a fight for the very life of our movement. In a time when silence equals complicity, we are out there making noise. Here we have the result of all that campaigning, lobbying and ruckus-raising to get Synapse back. The world will hear from YRUU once more!

This is the forum where we have the power to change minds, to shape dialogue, to change history. The power of your movement to speak and be spoken to is inside. Let us not forget the value of this.

Thank you to everyone who helped to save Synapse, and to all of our contributors, present, past and future, for keeping the conversations going.

In hope, faith and struggle,

Mimi LaValley

YRUU Programs Specialist Sept. 2002-2003

¹ See www.soaw.org for more information.

² From *Walking on Fire* by Beverly Bell

About Synapse...

Synapse is a publication of Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU), the youth organization of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Subscription is free for youth. 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 Principles and Purposes.

Editors:

**Bryan Beck
Megan Selby
Jason Lydon**

YRUU Program Specialists

Jesse Jaeger
YRUU Programs Director

**Bryan Beck
Barbara Gifford
Ethan Field**
Copy Editors

Judith Frediani
Synapse Review Board

Contributors:

**Evan Brand
Erin Stephens-North
Hannah Eller-Isaacs
Alexia G.
Jason Lydon
Tim Fitzgerald
Paul Kendrick
Marissa Gutierrez
Lydia Pelot-Hobbs
Asha Philar**

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 for your organization.



Table of Contents

The Basics

Letters to the Editor	2
Meet the Y.O.	2
Continental Calender	3
Wink From the Editor	4
Steering Committee Speaks	6
Advisor of the Year Award	11

Features and Articles

New From Our Canadian Friends	7
SOAW	10
Rock That Vote!	12
Continental Community	13
What the SWAT!?!?	18

Theme Section:

The Power of Language

Gender Pronouns	16
A Poem by Evan Brand	17
The Power of Language	19

Applications / Leadership

Opportunities

Y*FUUD Grant	7
Apply for Everything	8
Internships at the Y.O.	9
Apply to be a YPS	20
Young Adult Conference Staff	
Opportunities for Bridgers	23

Are you a writer, poet, artist, youth, or just feel really strong about something? Do you want your work to be distributed to thousands of 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.

Send Submissions to:

Synapse Editor
UUA Youth Office
25 Beacon St.
Boston, MA 02108
yruu@uua.org



Shout Outs from the

new and very *gugi Steering Committee! Kyle Butler, Annie Powell, Hannah Eller-Isaacs (hey man that's me!), Laura Manning, Asha Philar, Jova Vargas, Meggie Dennis, Katie Whitworth, Jazmin Sandoz-Rosado, the adult-at-large Tim Murphy and the Board of Trustees liaison to SC, Jose Ballester. We are all very excited to serve as your Steering committee for 2003-2004. Our first meeting is October 23-26th. We are all set to attend the meetings and a fabulous Anti-racism training that is taking place in New Orleans in January. We were all elected at the 2003 Youth Council, which was held at a Girl Scout camp in Holland, NY.

“This year YRUU is getting very excited and there is the potential for a lot of great changes to take place. However with all this change we need new leaders.”

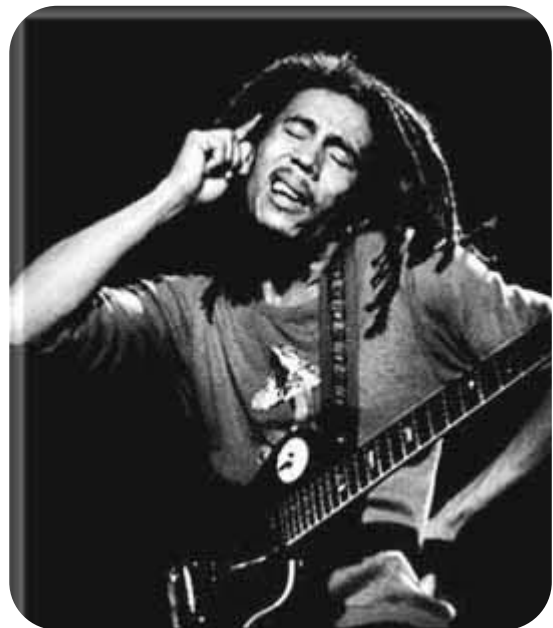
So in the interest of saving paper, I should probably get down to it. First of all, since you are reading this you are either a youth or a youth supporter, keep up the good work and thanks a lot. Without youth and the adults that support their efforts YRUU would cease to exist as we know it. This year YRUU is getting very excited and there is the potential for a lot of great changes to take place. However with all this change we need new leaders. I know what it is like to be a new kid in a church. I say step up to the plate. If you don't like the way something is done, step up and change it. If you want something done, do it. Don't just sit around talking about it. Take Action and DO IT! Apply for stuff. There is always some new opportunity around, whether it be in your local church, district level or continentally. See what's out there.

Today when I asked my dad what to write about for this article he rattled off a bunch of ideas and of course, being a 15 year-old daughter, I shot them all down, however one of them stuck with me. Be welcoming. I mean we

Steering Committee Speaks by Hannah Eller-Isaacs

can't have a bunch of leaders who are hostile and who drive people away. I am sure we all know what its like to be “the new kid”, at school, work, church, conferences...anything. As different as we are in lots of ways there are those certain things that tie us together. We must try and tie people in, NOT cut them out. Also don't be afraid to put yourself out there. It's amazing every human has such potential. One of my friends once illustrated this beautifully in her coming of age speech, “With this faith comes a certain privilege to express it with other people, talk about it, sing about it and preach it. Most of this goes on in a church or some other place of worship [conferences!] Religion brings people together for all different reasons and church is a safe place for people to unite and practice whatever it may be that they believe in.”

It never really hit me until I was reading through our coming of age speeches from last year how true this statement really is. Our faith is a unique one, one which allows for creativity and freedom of the mind. The work that the leaders of our faith do is incredibly important.



“Get up stand up. Stand up for your rights” –Bob Marley



News From Our Canadian Friends

by Asha Philar

We, from the great white north, just wanted to let you know how things are going up in Canada. Youth programming has gotten off to a rocky but exciting start during the past year and is still gaining momentum with great new possibilities on the horizon for this year.

We now have three YACs for our three youth regions (British Columbia, Western Canada and Quebec-Ontario-Maritimes Regions). The members of these YACs are incredibly hard working and have done some incredible work over the last year. In BC region, they are holding an LDC and advisor gathering, as well as a youth conference in Vancouver. In Western Canada, the Radical Religious Youth Steering Committee (like the YAC) put on a great conference October 3-5 as well as an advisor training, both on the same weekend! Whoa dogs, that's impressive!! In QuOM, we had a con in February where we learned about many topics concerning youth in youth groups and YRUU, and established our first YAC which has worked very hard to put out two newsletters and organize a cluster con in both halves of the region.

In the bigger Canadian picture, the Youth Advisory Group (YAG) is starting work on the annual youth conference for Canadian YRUUers, called CanUuddle. We hope to have over 100 youth there this year in Edmonton, Alberta. (It's in May if you want to come!!) We have also published two Canadian newsletters, edited by the amazing and talented Saille Bishop-Legowski.

Other than that, we're just really excited and confident about our continuing continental connection with all the amazing Americans we love so much! I think we've really proved to the UUA and the CUC that the youth cannot be separated, even when our organizations have disagreements. Way to go youth!

What can you do to support this continental connection? Talk up Canadian youth programming in your districts and PLEASE send us a \$1 per-person per-con tax (as resolved by Youth Council 2002) so that we may have an acceptable level of programming and funding like the youth in the UUA do. We really really appreciate all the love and help and support you have given to us thus far and we definitely believe that the youth will overcome all obstacles and stay together in our super awesome YRUU!

Asha is the Canadian At-Large on Youth Council as well as a member of YRUU's Steering Committee.

For info on the \$1 per person tax, contact the Youth Office.

Apply for a Y*FUUD grant!

Y*FUUD stands for Youth Funding for Unitarian Universalist Development. It is a grant fund for new and developing YRUU programs. Any youth (and this means you!) who are doing new and creative programming in their local youth group, district body, or continentally may apply. New and creative programming that Y*FUUD loves to fund may include (but is not limited to): creating a conference to address a specific need, developing a resource on a topic currently unaddressed, making a cool new publication, setting up travel for a youth group, or any other crazy new project idea that you super-creative YRUUers can come up with. The average Y*FUUD grant is between \$500-\$5,000.

Y*FUUD will review all applications received. Because of the difficulty of obtaining funding, Y*FUUD will distribute funds with priority to local, district, and continental programs, in that order. Y*FUUD grants are allocated by the YRUU Youth Council. Funding must be used within the same fiscal year. For multi-year projects, Y*FUUD must receive an application and progress report for each year of the project. Applications should be typed and are due by July 15. For more information or to obtain an application check the YRUU website at www.uua.org/YRUU/ or contact the Youth Office at (617) 742-2100 ext. 350 or email yruu@uua.org.

Want to influence YRUU policy?

Want a voice in Youth Council?

Write an agenda item!

Agenda items are anything that is brought to the floor at Youth Council (the governing body of YRUU). They fall into four categories:

Resolutions

Project proposals

Bylaw changes

Statements of belief

For more information on how to write an agenda item (i.e. a template with all the information you need) and how to get it to Youth Council check the YRUU website at www.uua.org/YRUU/governance.html



ATTENTION YOUTH!

Apply For Everything

Youth, we need your help! We are experiencing a drought here in Boston. Yes, a drought that could jepordize YRUU's ability to be a thriving youth organization. "What is this drought," you ask? It is the severe lack of applications we have been receiving for ALL youth leadership positions. Youth are you out there?!?! We need to see you! As MC5 once said, "Lemme see a sea of hands!" Or better yet, let me see your applications! Please review the following leadership positions currently available in YRUU and apply for as many as you desire! Go, like the wind!

People of Color Caucus

**August 3-9, 2004
Whittier, CA**

The People of Color Caucus (PoCC) will be made up of youth of color who are interested in becoming the leaders of YRUU and helping to govern the organization. Adults of Color are also part of the PoCC and are there to support and empower youth. At Youth Council, the caucus will participate in the same activities as the other members of Youth Council.

**Applications
for Youth Council positions must
be postmarked by Feb 13, 2004**

ConCon Staff 2004

**July 26-August 1
Angelus Oaks, California**

•Deans (2)	•PoC Touch Group/ ID Coord.
•Worship Coordinator	•Energy Coordinator
•Special Events Coord.	•Gofer
•Workshop Coordinator	Youth Chaplain
•ID/Touch Group Coord.	•Adult Chaplain
•Adult Coordinator	•Logistics Coordinator

Be part of the amazing staff that will rock Conifer Camp. There are currently 13 staff positions open for ConCon staff (some for youth and adults).
Co-Dean applications are due December 13, 2003.
All other applications are due January 2, 2004

Youth Council At-Larges

August 3-9, 2004 - Whittier, California

The YRUU Youth Council is the governing body of Continental YRUU. They meet once a year to make policy decisions, pass resolutions, worship, have fun, and decide the direction for the UU Youth Movement for years to come. Members of the YRUU Youth Council work throughout the year to follow through on the resolutions that they have passed.

The YRUU Steering Committee is now accepting applications for Youth Council positions. There are three at-large positions available for youth and four for adults. The youth at-large positions are one-year commitments with an option to reapply for a second term at the end of the year. The adult at-large positions are two-year commitments.

•Transitional Age-Range Representative for Junior High:

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

•Transitional Age-Range Representative for Post-High:

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

•Canadian Youth At-Large:

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

You must be Canadian to hold this position.

•Adults At-Large:

This year there are four adult at-large positions open. UU ministers, YRUU advisors, and religious educators are particularly encouraged to apply.

Applications for all YRUU leadership positions should be typewritten and should include:

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

A Letter of Intent: Why you want the position for which you are applying, what you feel you can offer that position, what you think you can offer to the group, what YRUU issues concern you, and your dreams and goals for YRUU.

Anti-Racism, Multiculturalism, and Diversity: How do you define racism? What sort of education have you had on issues of racism, anti-racism, and/or multiculturalism (describe these experiences)?

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

Internships in the Youth Office



Yes, you CAN work with these four ultra cool folk. left to right: Ethan Field (Youth Office Administrative Assistant), Jason Lydon (September YPS), Megan Selby (June YPS), and Jesse Jaeger (YPD). They're fun, they're wild, they may be your future coworkers. Come on down and be an intern!

Send Applications to:
Internship Applications
C/O Youth Office
25 Beacon St.
Boston, MA 02108

Synapse Editor Intern

Applications due January 5, 2004

Spring Break intern

Like Synapse? Have good ideas? Creative much? Like to do stuff? and things? Then being the next Editor of Synapse is the job for you! Synapse is back and it needs your help.

The WORKLOAD: Expected time commitment is about 15 hours a week for 8-12 weeks. Synapse work includes layout of online and print version as well as helping to solicit needed articles. When you are not working on Synapse you can be working on other projects you have interest in that you either make a proposal for or are given from youth office staff.

The PERKS: You get a stipend of \$500-1000.00: 1/2 paid up front and 1/2 paid at the end of your internship. You also get to work closely with all the youth office staff.

TO APPLY: Send the Youth Office a letter of intent including your name, address, phone, email, birthdate, age, your qualifications, examples of layout work if you have any, two references (one youth, one adult) and some vegan chocolate for megan and jason (just kidding about the last part...)

Come play in the waves of the East Coast... oh wait, it will probably be too cold as the Youth Office is in Boston, MA which tends to be rather chilly in March and April. BUT the Youth Office knows how to party, so come spend your Spring Break with us!

The WORKLOAD: 35-hour work week. You have the option of coming up with your own project or working on ongoing Youth Office projects.

The PERKS: Free lodging while you're here, earn a free registration to any YRUU continental event.

TO APPLY: Send a letter of intent including your name, address, phone, e-mail, birthdate, age, what you would like to work on during your stay, your qualifications, and two letters of reference (one youth, one adult).

You, too, can get "thwomped" by a wave like June YPS Megan Selby. Your wave will be more a wave of *fun* in chilly Boston than this wave of water in the warm Pacific...



School of the Americas Watch

by Jason Lydon

School of the Americas Watch (SOAW) is an organization of committed people working to increase awareness about US Foreign Policy regarding Latin America, specifically involving the SOA (renamed in 2001 the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation). SOAW began in a small apartment right outside the gates of Ft. Benning, Georgia where the school is stored away. Father Roy Bourgeois founded SOAW after learning of the six Jesuit Priests (whom he had known), their housekeeper and her daughter who were massacred by graduates of the SOA. Father Roy was not alone in his desire for reform and many more people joined on with this new organization. The SOA is responsible for the massacre and disappearance of hundreds of thousands of people in Latin America. Many of the people of Latin America have been working to raise awareness about the school since its inception in 1946 in Panama; Father Roy brought the movement to life in the US.

Small vigils began happening outside the gates of Ft. Benning as well as the Capital building in Washington, D.C. This small group of people became extremely devoted and began taking part in nonviolent direct action in order to bring awareness to the atrocities committed by graduates of this terrorist training school. Father Roy was the first to be arrested for an anti-SOA action after sneaking onto the grounds of Ft. Benning and climbing a tree by the barracks where the students of the school slept. He then played through a loudspeaker the last speech written by Monsignor Oscar Romero who was assassinated by a graduate of the School. This resulted in Father Roy's first prison sentence of six months -- certainly

not his last -- he has served over three years for actions related to the SOA.

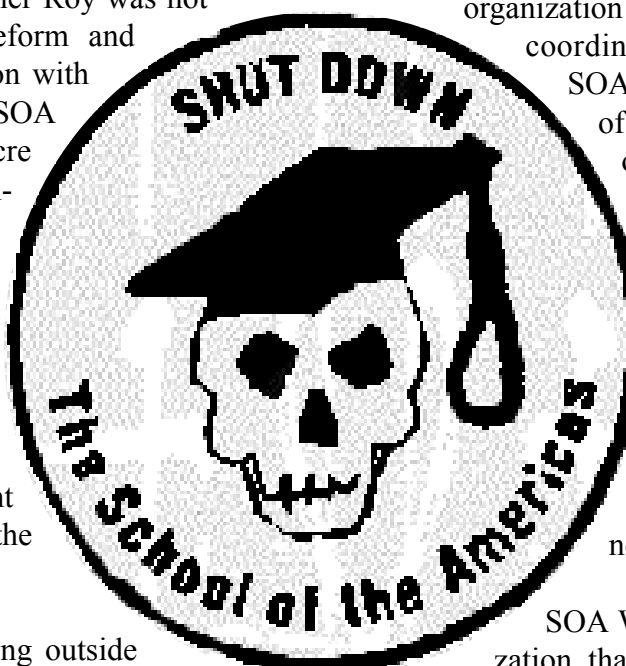
SOAW has continued to grow over the years and there are over 60 local SOAW organizations all over the US as well as one in Canada and the UK. Organizations keep establishing as this school continues to be infamous. Every year on the anniversary of the massacred Jesuit priests, housekeeper and daughter thousands gather at the gates of Ft. Benning for a vigil/protest. This is a time for many to come together, be they anarchists, Catholic nuns, UU youth, labor activists, or simply peace-loving people, and raise their voice to cry out for justice for the people of Latin America. The parent SOAW organization located in Washington D.C.

coordinates this action each year.

SOAW D.C. is staffed by a group of committed people who work, on a mostly volunteer basis, a more than full-time job. Not only do they plan the action every year but they maintain the SOAW website, <http://www.soaw.org> and keep track of the prisoners of conscious who are serving sentences for actions they took to increase awareness about the SOA.

SOA Watch is truly a living organization that is growing all the time as more and more people learn about the SOA and the need for reform in US Foreign Policy around Latin America. Father Roy was the beginning of SOA Watch but it has grown to include so many more and will continue to grow until that school shuts its doors for the last time. You can find out more information about the SOA and the movement to shut the school down on the SOA Watch website.

**THE PEOPLE SAY,
"CLOSE DOWN THE SOA!"**



Congratulations to
Paula Rosenberg
this year's
Youth Advisor of the Year!



Also, a congratulations goes out to all the
other nominees for this award:

Steve Feinstein
Laura Parker-McGlynn
Andy and Kim St. Clair
V Langston-Kingsley
Sue Johnson & Jim Phillips
Eric Christensen
Mark McCormick
Stu Caplan
Jan Taddeo
Ken Kuehm
Twila Barber
Tom Stubbs &
Charlie Graham

All of these folks have done amazing work with
UU youth. Their dedication, support, and love
are what have kept many of us youth going at
one time or another. We value them in our
lives and thank them deeply.

THANK YOU ALL!

The YRUU Youth Council in con-
junction with the UUA Youth Office
is now accepting nominations for:



THE BEST
YOUTH ADVISOR
IN THE WORLD!



Do you know of (or are you) a fantabular advisor who works
with Unitarian Universalist youth? If so, we invite you to nomi-
nate that person (or yourself) for

The 9th Annual
YOUTH ADVISOR of the
YEAR AWARD

Submit a nomination to the Youth Office
by May 15, 2004

The Advisor selected will be presented with the Youth
Advisor of the Year Award at General Assembly Awards in
Long Beach, California in June 2004. The Youth Advisor of
the Year will have \$500 donated to their youth group in their
name, in addition to much overdue recognition, celebrity
status, and undying love and support of youth everywhere.

Advisor nominations must include:

- 1) A brief bio which also lists the advisor's experience
with youth and her or his qualifications;
- 2) TWO letters of recommendation from YOUTH with
whom the advisor has worked with;
- 3) ONE letter of recommendation from a ADULT in the
congregation or district with which the advisor has been
affiliated.

Info you may want to include but are not required to include
or limited by:

- * How does the advisor use the *Five Components of a
Balanced Youth Group Program* and the *Five Steps to
Building Community*?
- * How is the advisor empowering to youth?
- * Examples of the advisor's awesomeness

Send Nominations to:

The Youth Office
25 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 948-4350
FAX (617) 367-4798
yruu@uua.org



Rock That Vote!!

by Paul Kendrick

During the 2003 Ware Lectures at the Boston General Assembly, NAACP Board Chairman Julian Bond was asked what was the most important piece of social action that he thought we should concentrate on. Looking out at an audience that comprised advocates of religious freedom, racial equality, economic justice and a plethora of other causes, he must have been overwhelmed for a moment. How could he answer a question as grand as that? What one issue can you single out and elevate as being needed before all others? However, his answer seemed to come without equivocation and it was that we must register everyone to vote.

The stakes for the 2004 presidential election will be huge. Whether or not you support President Bush it is undeniable that he has shown how much one administration can alter the world. From de-constructing Iraq to vastly re-shaping our tax code to changing core civil liberties, he has made the America of 2003 quite different from the America of 2000. That is the awe-inspiring power of democracy and in 2004 we are called upon to make sure all eligible people in our denomination are registered to make their voice heard for this referendum on the Bush presidency.

It was in this vein that I, along with Christine Middleton, Heather DeLong, Brianna Rioux and Kathleen McAuley, proposed and guided through a resolution at Youth Council that dedicates us to this great task. We want youth groups around the country stressing to their members that their political beliefs are worthless if they are not educated on how to vote. The Youth Council adopted our idea, which is to urge all districts to have voter registration material available at all Cons. This is easily accessible at local post offices, libraries, or at

numerous web sites (www.election.com will get you started). We want all district websites to feature prominent links to voter registration sites. Furthermore, we would ask that districts put a small question on their Con registration form to gauge whether people are registered to vote and whether they would like more information. We must emphasize that voting is not as simple as just showing up on Election Day; you need to have taken care of this paperwork in advance. Also, the reason it seems politicians are uninterested in 18- to 35-year-olds is because their voting numbers are so low. When you vote, they listen to your issues (e.g. constant debates on old folk's Prescription Drugs).

“We must emphasize that voting is not as simple as just showing up on Election Day.”

Obviously many of the folks in YRUU are not eligible yet to vote. Nevertheless, the point of this is to instill civic values in our youth groups that will assure they when the time comes that will automatically know that they

have got to register. This is at the root of UU Principles, and we must make sure the youth movement never forgets that. In conclusion, to paraphrase Missy Elliot... "Get Your Vote On, Get Your Vote On!"



Continental Community

by Tim Fitzgerald

More youth participated in continental YRUU this past year than in any year before. The vastness of recent years' growth in the continental-level community is an awesome thing that YRUU is and should be embracing, but it also has presented a great deal of challenge – both to YRUU's leadership and to its very structure. Many of you reading this have had some personal experience with this struggle, having been to either General Assembly in Boston or ConCon near Buffalo, NY, this past summer. Although these are two vastly different events, their success and fate are distinctly tied together, and as YRUU deals with growth on the continental level (in contrast with the declining quantity of funding it is receiving from the financially-stretched UUA) there needs to be a wide-open discussion about what can and must change, what needs to stay the same, and what must be done to ensure that YRUU successfully serves the greatest possible number of youth now and in the future.

Both GA and ConCon had their struggles and difficulties this year. To most veteran GA attendees, it was clear that the enormous size of this year's Youth Caucus (650+) stretched the staff, programming, and community-building devices of General Assembly at least to their breaking

point, if not well over it. "People I talked to were awesome, but it was kinda cliquey. It wasn't [cliquey] in Quebec, but [in Boston] people seemed to stay in their own groups," observed Reading, MA youth Phil Mohr. Like Mohr, bridging youth Nat

Balder also noticed the negative impacts of the community's gigantic size. "It was interesting to see how circle worship works – or in some cases, doesn't work – with 250 people." Many youth within bridging age, who had come to General Assembly as members of Youth Caucus, felt compelled to attend young adult worships and business meetings instead of their youth counterparts. Attendance at Youth Caucus business meetings was embarrassingly low, partially as a result of this loss of older leadership. This is not to say that Youth Caucus wasn't successful in many ways; Balder noted that he felt that the youth-led all-GA worship was one of the best he'd ever been to, and there were many examples of great youth involvement at GA this year – the fact that the youth rallied and finally passed YRUU's pet Study Action Issue on Prison Reform is one of the more impressive examples.

ConCon, in contrast, was smaller than it has been in recent years. Just barely breaking 100 attendees, ConCon achieved a much stronger community than GA, underscoring the inversely proportional relationship between a community's size and its strength. Worships, planned by the worship workshop and led by the worship-coordinating duo Caitlin and Erin Stephens-North, achieved the intensity for which ConCon has become known. "The feedback on them was overwhelmingly positive," noted worship workshop member Jesse Hitchens. The other workshops were equally engaging and impressive, and the entire conference went on a very successful trip to the American side of nearby Niagara Falls.

However, as a result of the low attendance, the conference lost money for the Youth Office, and toward the end of the conference some things that had already been budgeted for were voluntarily skimped on. This problem of making ConCon's ends meet is nothing new, and it's raised the question of what purpose ConCon really serves that



From L to R: Tim Fitzgerald, Bryan Beck, Avalon Zimmerman, Niall Elson at Niagara Falls during ConCon 2003



makes it worth the large financial risk and investment of Youth Office time that it requires.

There are two other continental conferences that are crucial to note: the Youth Social Justice Conference, which is now organized by the Youth Office (rather than the UUA's Washington, DC office); and the annual YRUU business meeting Youth Council. The first is aimed at district Social Action Coordinators and other interested youth, the second, at district Youth Council Representatives. These both were very successful this year, with the YSJC happening last February and Youth Council immediately following ConCon. Check out the YRUU website for more information about the business done at Youth Council. The YSJC will occur again in November of this year, rather than the Spring of next year, finally implementing a change that has long been in the works that will allow district SACs to bring back the tools they learn to use at the YSJC and share their new knowledge, training, and enthusiasm with their districts for a much larger chunk of their year-long terms.

The importance of continental events may not be entirely clear to those who have not participated in them. The fact of the matter is that a lot of time and energy and money go into planning, facilitating, and executing continental YRUU events, which see well under a thousand total participants each year. Given that, as a rough rule of thumb, Synapse had about 15,000 subscribers before its database was purged and refreshed this summer, this is a pretty tiny percentage of the youth that consider themselves to be Unitarian Universalist. So, why does it make sense to devote such plentiful resources to facilitating these events?

And, more importantly, does it make sense to continue to do so?

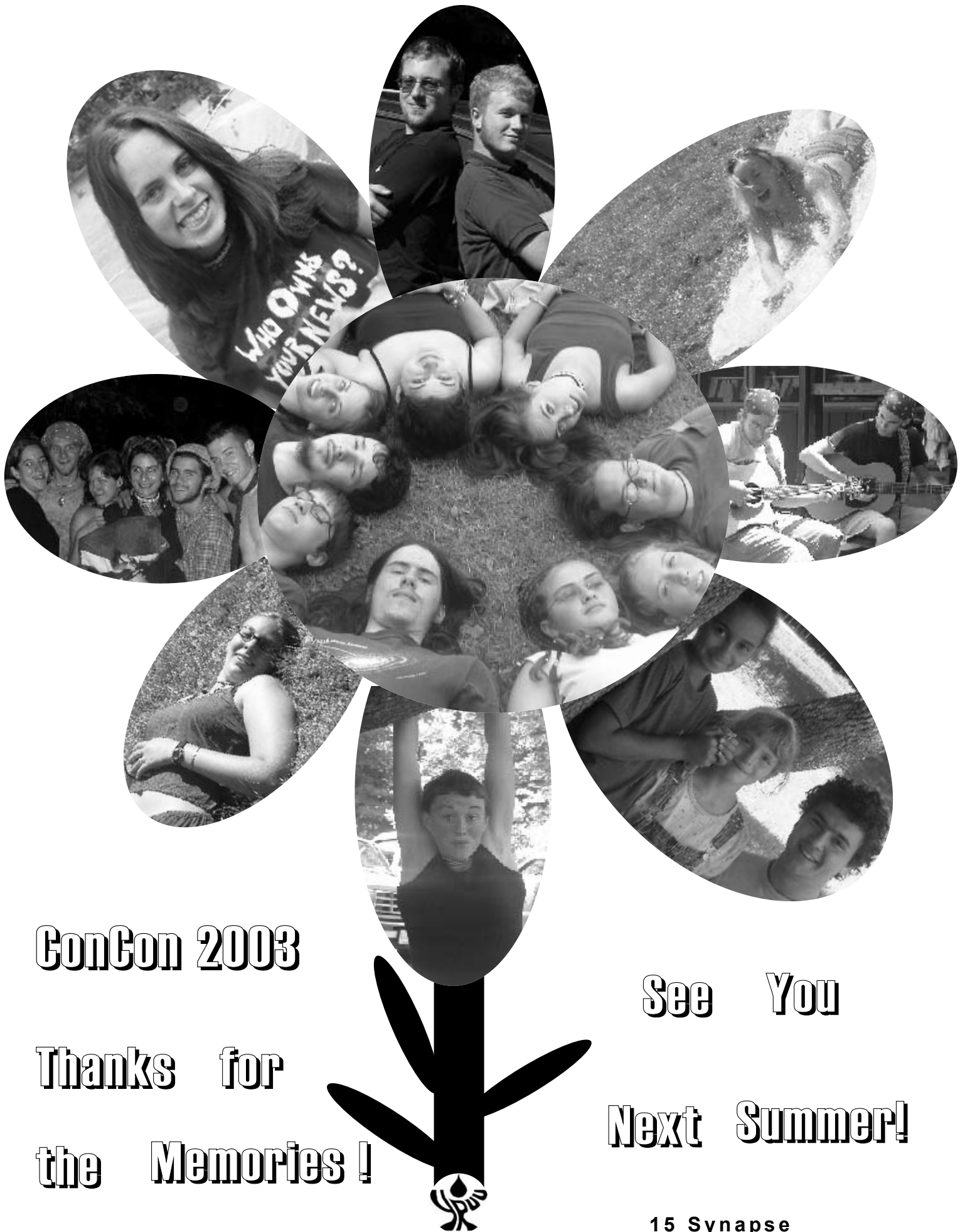
It's a question being asked by the Youth Office, by YRUU's Continental Steering Committee, and by the UUA Board of Trustees. And it's a question that requires a lot of intentional input from the UUA's entire youth community. Already there has been a survey circulated by Youth Programs Specialist Jason Lydon through email about General Assembly's Youth Caucus, and early in November there will be a discussion about the issue with representatives from YRUU, the Youth Office, and the Board of Trustees. At issue are ways to make Youth Caucus accountable to youth, organized enough to function as a governing body at General Assembly (which is intended to be a business meeting, not a conference), and strong enough as a body to be trusted with electing positions of real power and influence such as the Youth Observer and, even more importantly, the Youth Trustee-at-large on the UUA Board.

Additionally, ConCon is on the table as something that might need to be cut loose from the Youth Office's workload, because of the strains of having only two YPSes come January (as the January position's funding has been cut). The Youth Office has begun the process of assembling a Youth Council-mandated task force created for the purpose of examining ConCon's role in Continental YRUU and how it might be modified or possibly organized and run by a volunteer committee.

The idea of changing these conferences is scary to many long-time YRUUers. Continental YRUU as a community depends on GA and ConCon to exist, and the purposes they serve may seem at first glance to be minor, but they're of immeasurable value to those who have attended and benefited from these events in the past. ConCon may be small, and it may serve a very small number of people each year, but it's also a community representing all districts of YRUU and sharing ideas of spirituality, social action, and community building. YRUU's best worships are at ConCon, and our best leaders lead workshops and touch groups at

“Continental YRUU as a community depends on GA and ConCon to exist, and the purposes they serve may seem at first glance to be minor, but they’re of immeasurable value to those who have attended and benefited from these events in the past.”





ConCon 2003

**Thanks for
the Memories !**

See You

Next Summer!

Gender Pronouns

by Alexia G.



named Alexia, my birth name being Alexander, and I attend a public high school in Massachusetts. I am one of the fortunate people in my situation that has been brought up in an

"Is it a boy or a girl?" is always among the first things asked about a new baby. After all, we don't want to call the baby an it! And without pronouns it can sound really awkward (e.g., "Who does the baby look like? Ooh, the baby has your nose! Isn't the baby adorable?"). But what hardly anybody realizes is that, despite all the pink or blue booties, the little dresses and the overalls, there's truly no way to know the answer for sure.

We automatically assume that boys will be boys, and girls will be girl, as the old saying goes. For instance, what comes into your mind when you hear the word "Boy"? What about "Girl"? Most people have entirely different images, built on memories and experiences, which make them treat boys and girls very differently. But there are several flaws in that saying. For one, just about everyone has met a feminine male or a masculine girl. They are easy to pick out. The boys tend to be the ones being made fun of, and the girls tend to be the tomboys getting in trouble. Sometimes it is just a behavior pattern, but sometimes it means that the person is transgender. In which case, inside, "he" is really a she, or "she" is a he! If that is true, which pronoun should be used for the person? That of his or her physical sex, or the real gender he or she has?

Every day of the week people use pronouns, constantly. Try not to use a single "he", "she", "him", or "her". Good luck! They're so omnipresent in our vocabulary, but people never seem to take a good look at them. Let me tell you a little about myself. I am a sixteen year old male-to-female transsexual

open and loving community -- my mother is the secretary to the U.U. church here, so you can imagine how involved I am there. A long time ago, I realized that I didn't just want to be a girl, I was one. The more I learned, the more I realized it is not some freakish perversion like it is made out to be and I began to fully think of myself as a girl. That was the moment that I realized just how many pronouns people use. Every day it seems like I'm assaulted by the word "he", and "Him", "His", "Sir" -- the list goes on. Each time someone uses a masculine pronoun for me it feels like a solid kick to the stomach.

Every time they use the wrong pronoun for me, it creates a gigantic internal conflict. I want to correct them, but I realize that I am ashamed of who I am, and it can be very hard to say what I want to.

"Why do they hurt so much?" I've often thought about that question. I understand why people do it, because they see a physical boy and think that it's what I should be called. But what about people that know about my situation, as many at my school, including all my teachers (who all use masculine pronouns) do? Every time they use the wrong pronoun for me, it creates a gigantic internal conflict. I want to correct them, but I realize that I am ashamed of who I am, and it can be very hard to say what I want to. All in all,

it's a terrible feeling, and puts me in an awful mood. But, if someone uses the proper pronoun, I feel elated! Someone really understands and respects me! It truly brightens my day, and I wonder why people can't just do me the one simple favor of cheering me up instead of kicking dirt in my face, as it feels like they are doing.

My experience with pronouns is often the same as that of other people in my situation, and it can be



especially frustrating to people who are too ashamed or afraid to admit to who they are. Psychiatrists tend to predict that one in 30,000 Americans are transgender, but other groups believe that it's far more common, at about one in 2,500.

This means it is somewhat likely that you know someone who is going through this, whether you realize it or not. What can you do about it? It is actually very easy, just ask. If you have children, please, ask them what gender they view themselves as! If they have any sign of doubt or confusion, they could be going through gender dysphoria (a conflict between one's gender and physical sex). You could make his or her life a whole lot better just by asking, and it honestly can't hurt. Even the most masculine of boys and the most feminine of girls can be transgender -- and often are, because they tend to overcompensate in an attempt to hide themselves. Once you acknowledge their true gender, ask what pronoun he or she would like you to use. It's good to know that "he" and "she" aren't the only choices, there are also "heshe", "shi", "hir", and many other variations if he or she doesn't feel like either gender has a good enough label.

Pronouns have a profound effect on the lives of those who are in conflict with them, yet such a small effect on those who are comfortable with their physical sex. If you have any suspicions that someone you know may be transgender, just ask him or her what pronoun you should use. It truly cannot hurt, and if it ends up being true, you would be the hero! Believe me, it can be a very wonderful thing to be recognized by someone else as who you are, and pronouns tend to be the biggest boundary to cross.

Is it a boy or a girl? You may not know the answer for a few years. Until then, you might as well use the pronoun assigned to the sex he or she is born with. But not soon after the child can talk, you should ask who they feel they are. The earlier they hear the right words, the better their lives can be.

Alexia's website is <http://www.theinnerlife.net>.
It has poetry, forums and resources on transgender.

A royal fuss has sprung about,
Should "under God" be in or out?
Or does it really matter what is said?

My view is that yes it does,
God should stay out, this is because,
For a matter with no bearing such as this.

It's simple, but I must explain,
The reason I know such disdain,
For a matter with no bearing, such as this.

It is because each day at school,
I tend to almost lose my cool,
My sweaty hands clenching to a fist.

"Please rise" the teacher seems to nag,
All heads turn to the wrinkled flag,
Then a noise, a chant? A song? A moan?

It is The Pledge we now recite,
A bragging of our country's might,
Then the words that make me feel alone.

"Under God" they all proclaim,
I cannot say it, not that name,
For I cannot say what I don't believe.

I am alone, a moment a day,
Inside me notes ring of dismay,
I do not fit here, this place is not for me.

Is this not the land of free?
Of equal opportunity?
It doesn't fit that I should feel this way.

And yet these people will take action,
So they can have the satisfaction,
Of those two words that they "have" to say.

And so I'm sad for those like me,
For those with some diversity,
That have that feeling that never fails to haunt.

So now I ask, to those God fearing,
Think of those with pain that's searing,
Is that really what your God would want?

-Evan Brand

LOOKING FOR OTHER RESOURCES?

Visit the Resources page on the YRUU website:
<http://www.uua.org/YRUU/resources.html>

Find resources for: Coming of Age, LGBT, Games, Youth Spirituality, Anti-Racism, YRUU songs, Advisors, District Programming, Youth Groups, Social Justice, Community Building and much more!



What the SWAT?!?

by Lydia Pelot-Hobbs

Hey, do you care about where this world is headed? About injustices? About putting your faith into action? Then you should join the YRUU Super Working Action Team (SWAT). You say, "What is SWAT exactly?" Well, SWAT is a group of anyone between the ages of 14 and 20 who wants to work on a specific social justice issue and support the Working Action Manager (WAM).



Currently the issue, which was decided at General Assembly last June, is Education Reform and Multiculturalism. Within this issue we are tackling the issues of getting rid of standardized testing, supporting the unschooling movement, working towards conceptual learning, getting rid of tracking programs in schools, making the school system supportive of different cultures beyond the point of just putting some posters up in a room. AND, if there is anything else you want to be included, it can, because SWAT is a grassroots organization where YOU decide what is important.

Now that you're pumped for this awesome cause, you ask, "How do you get involved?" Simple. Try and go to the annual YRUU Social Justice Conference and research the issue from a list of books and articles. Have workshops through your youth group or district on Education Reform and Multiculturalism, educate your congregation, go to General Assembly and help support the issue so it can be taken on as a larger issue of the UUA. The possibilities are endless!!

For more information contact me, the current WAM, Lydia Pelot-Hobbs at CrazyLydz@aol.com.

Let's make this issue ROCK!!

the 50-year-old conference. ConCon, in many ways, sets the standard YRUU districts try to reach, and its vision is transported back to districts by those who attend it. In this, its reach is far beyond just the small community that actually participates. Important questions should be asked in this process in regards to the value of this exchange of ideas, and how it might occur without ConCon or if ConCon were in a different form than it is now.

Youth Caucus is similarly important. It is the youth community's voice within the larger UU community, and it has the potential to gain a lot more influence over the UUA's politics if it can be held together as a functioning, representative, and accountable body. One concern that has been raised is how it fits in with Youth Council, the main YRUU governing body which is directly accountable to district youth. Youth Caucus, on the other hand, has no real ties of accountability and doesn't have any real power of representation because the only position of import it gets to elect is the voteless Youth Observer to the Board of Trustees. However, YC's past achievements, including the strong influence it has over the larger GA community's choice of Study Action Issues, prove that there is a great deal of potential for it to gain more power within the larger GA community.

To achieve these goals, however, a lot of restructuring and outside-the-box thinking needs to be done. UUA President Rev. William Sinkford has advocated for a new Common Ground conference (YRUU was first formed from the ashes of LRY at Common Grounds I and II in 1981 and 1982, respectively), and there will be meetings of youth and adult leadership over the next few months trying to plot a course for the future of YRUU. Keep an eye out for chances to voice your very valuable opinion.

Tim Fitzgerald served as co-dean of ConCon 2003 and as youth chaplain at GA 2002. He currently serves as the youth observer on the UUA board of trustees. He lives in Boston where he attends Northeastern University as a Music Technology major.

Are you interested in being on ConCon staff? Go to page 8 for details!



The Power of Language

by Marissa Gutierrez

My brother and I rarely talk now that he is a naval officer in South Carolina. So one can imagine my surprise when he hits me up for USC football tickets via e-mail, and it absolutely shocks me when he sends me a link to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I have a dream" speech. "After all, it's the anniversary, Marissa... in case you didn't know."

But to be honest, that particular fact did not cross my mind. On August 28, 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered a speech regarded as one of the most famous in all of history. A speech that has inspired, uplifted, and challenged humans throughout the world to dream of a more perfect world... for all people.



Elois is an African-American woman, around 60 years old by my estimate. She is considered to be the "senior secretary" in the office where I work. I have known her to put up several MLK quotes around the office, and on one occasion I spotted her with a book by the famous civil rights leader. I questioned her about

was immediately inflamed.

"Why is it so important? What does it mean to me? For me, it is the hope that one day all people can live in peace with one another. It gives us something to dream for... to work toward. That children of different races can one day join together: to love one another, to accept each other's cultures. The idea of it, simply gives me chills..." The fact that people rejoice in a speech delivered almost 40 years ago perplexes me. Yet the actions of my brother and my co-worker are not unusual. MLK's "I have a dream" speech has and I feel will continue to ignite the emotions of people. I go into the AFL-CIO building downtown, a poster of King and "I have a dream" is on the wall. It's on a plaque in the park at my

university. The words are on a t-shirt. "Why?", one might ask. I can only attempt to explain. First, it was brilliant. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a powerful, charismatic leader. Second, it was radical. The idea that blacks and

whites were equal and could live together side by side was a radical idea at that time. This speech proved that the power of language is supreme. It proved the power of language could rally people to create change.

all this and the "I have a dream" speech in particular. A fire inside of her

I don't know if all people are blessed with such a gift as Dr. King had. I don't know if these people who do have this gift use it to its full potential. I do know that when such a beautiful gift is used, its effects are truly amazing. I know that I definitely do not have that gift. In all honesty, my public speaking abilities are horrible. But I feel that it is something I am trying to work on. And it's something I encourage all leaders to work on, especially those in YRUU. Especially the Social Action Coordinators in our districts or anyone else working for social change. Our voices are dying to be heard. We may not all be Dr. Kings, or Dolores Huertas, but we definitely have an opinion, a belief that must not be silenced.

Language is the activists' tool against injustice. With such a power, we are capable of stirring up the emotions of people. We are capable of making them passionate about an issue. We can give people the motivation to change themselves and change the world. So challenge yourself to take a speech class, or facilitate a meeting in your district. Read a book on public speaking or maybe even study the speeches of some famous leaders. Anything. Speak up and speak out loud. Learning these tools and becoming a better leader, makes us one step closer to the world that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. so boldly envisioned on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial 40 years ago. We have to continue the legacy and motivate people for the next generation.

You can find a copy of
MLK's speech at

<http://www.mecca.org/~crights/dream.html>
And be inspired... again.



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 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.



YRUU Program Specialist Application

The YRUU Programs Specialist position is a one-year staff program position for youth at the UUA headquarters in Boston. The two YRUU Programs Specialists will work with the Youth Programs Director to manage day-to-day business of Young Religious Unitarian Universalists. General responsibilities for every YPS include: managing the continental YRUU office, planning and administering conferences and other youth gatherings, participating in meetings, implementing decisions of the YRUU Youth Council and Steering Committee, traveling to plan continental youth events, and editing and laying out the YRUU Magazine *Synapse*.

There are two YPS terms beginning June 1, and September 1. The salary is \$27,450 (before taxes). The YPS will be reimbursed up to a total of \$1500, \$1,000 of which may be used to purchase necessities and up to \$500 for shipping/moving expenses. In addition, the YPSs are also eligible for a personal loan up to \$1,500 for first and last months' rent and security deposit. Moving from Boston, the YPS will be reimbursed up to \$1,000 for shipping/moving expenses. YPSs also receive great health benefits.

Each YPS has a specific skill set need for their term.

Term	Skill Set	Continental Event
Both YPSs	Website skills, resource development and layout of Synapse	GA responsibilities
June	Network with district SACs and be the social justice specialist	Continental trainings and YRUU Social Justice Con
September	Network with UUA staff groups and be the anti-racism specialist	Youth Council and ConCon

The successful applicant will have an amiable personality with leadership qualities, good written and verbal communication skills, the maturity and creativity to handle an often hectic but rewarding full-time job, have the freedom to live in the Boston area as well as travel, and will be between the ages of 16 and 22 at the time of application.

How to Apply

To apply, send a cover letter, an application form (see application questions below), and at least three letters of recommendation addressed to the YRUU Steering Committee c/o the Youth Office, 25 Beacon St. Boston, MA 02108. Please feel free to complete the application form on your own paper. The completed cover letter, application, and recommendations must be postmarked by:

Start Date For Position	Application Deadline Postmarked by
June 1	November 15
September 1	February 15

The **cover letter** should briefly but thoroughly address:

- 1) ***What is in it for us?*** Include your visions for YRUU, your special areas of interest, your experience with leadership development, problem solving, and experiences working with different age groups.
- 2) ***What is in it for you?*** Include how the job will fit into your life plan, and your personal goals.
- 3) ***What is your relationship to YRUU?*** What does the "religious" in YRUU mean to you? What influence has YRUU had on your life, and what would you like it to have?
- 4) ***What are your strengths, and where do you feel you need improvement?***

Letters of recommendation should be from people who you know well. It is best to get letters from a variety of people, such as ministers, directors of religious education, youth active in YRUU, and adults with whom you've worked. Please make sure each recommendation includes the person's phone number at which they may be reached during the day.



Application Questions (all applicants must answer these questions)

Please answer the application questions, typewritten, on your own paper. We look forward to receiving your application!

NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE, EMAIL, DATE OF BIRTH, UU SOCIETY, UUA DISTRICT:

1. education and employment History
2. Youth and other UU experience (participation and positions held).
 - A) Local UU Society/Youth Group.
 - B) YRUU district experience (conferences, district youth committees, etc.).
 - C) Continental YRUU Experience (Youth Council, ConCon, or other annual or one-time continental events or committees).
- 3.) Other related experience (neighborhood, local, school-related, state/provincial, national).
- 4.) What multicultural experiences have you had?
- 5.) What social justice actions have you participated in?
- 6.) What experience do you have planning, organizing, or facilitating anti-racism workshops or identity-based caucuses?
- 7.) What changes do you think YRUU needs to make to become an anti-racist multicultural institution?
- 8.) How has racism personally affected you?
- 9.) What anti-racism training/education/reading have you done?
- 10.) What leadership experience do you have (motivating others, delegation, public speaking)?
- 11.) What experience have you had working with other people (as part of a team, in an office or business environment, with other youth and with adults)?
- 12.) List communication skills (assertiveness, cooperation, representing adult needs to youth and youth needs to adults).
- 13.) List office skills (being organized, meeting deadlines, typing, computer, writing). How are you at juggling multiple tasks in a busy work environment?
- 14.) What experience have you had working with publications/newspapers (editing, layout, writing and production)?
- 15.) Please describe your computer skills and please send any examples of your work with web pages.
- 16) Describe your knowledge and experience with ConCon.
- 17.) Describe your experience coordinating any youth events or conferences and how those skills might apply to coordinating General Assembly Youth Caucus.
- 18.) What role should youth play in GA and in the Association?
- 19.) List any other skills (second languages or any other cool skill you haven't mentioned)

Questions for the specific YPS Terms

Answer only the questions that are relative to the term for which you are applying.

June term:

- 1.) Send a sample of your writing/any resources you've developed.
- 2.) What social justice issues are important to you and how have you put your faith into action?
- 3.) Describe your experience coordinating any youth events or conferences, specifically any training or workshop leading experience you've had.
- 4.) What resources do you think YRUU needs? What resources would you like to develop as a YPS?

September term:

- 1.) Describe your knowledge of Youth Council. How do you best think Youth Council Representatives can serve their districts?
- 2.) What impact do you think Youth Council can have on the rest of YRUU?
- 3.) Describe your ability to network and work with adults. What UU organizations are you currently involved with? Give examples of your ability to schmooze.
- 4.) What experience do you have working in relationship with district UU organizations like the district YAC, District RE committee, District Trustees, etc.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call one of the current YRUU Programs Specialists in the Youth Office at (617) 742-2100 ext. 351/352/353. Position Title: YRUU Programs Specialist (YPS)



For more information, job descriptions or to apply online go to:

General Assembly Long Beach, California June 24 – 28, 2003

Opus – Camp Sipapu, New Mexico – August 7 – 12

ConCentric – Camp Sipapu NM – August 13th – 16th 2004

Opus and ConCentric Shared Staff – August 7th – 16th 2004



Got Synapse?

Subscribe Me to Paper Synapse!

The Story of *Synapse*: *Synapse* existed as a print-only publication for almost twenty years. In 2002, budget & staff cuts at the UUA put *Synapse* into a year of transition. This year, we present this new, improved *Synapse*! If you thought you were subscribed to *Synapse* but didn't get a copy in the mail, it's because in July 2003, we un-subscribed the over 10,000 people who were subscribed and started fresh with a new subscription list! If you haven't subscribed since July, here's how to do it:

Subscribe to *Synapse*: If you want to receive print *Synapse*, you can go to www.uua.org/connect (preferred) and create an account for yourself and subscribe there; or you can also fill out this form and mail it back to us for a 2-year subscription. Print *Synapse* is free for youth aged 14-20. For adults, a 2-year subscription will cost USD \$10.

Read *Synapse* Online: If you're down with the internet, you can read *Synapse Online* at:

www.uua.org/yruu/synapse

If you'd like to save a tree and read *Synapse Online* exclusively, you can subscribe to an email list which will send out announcements about *Synapse Online*. Just go to www.uua.org/connect, create an account for yourself in our database, and subscribe to the email list *synapse-l*.

Check all that apply...

- ☐ I'm a youth, age 14-20. *Synapse* is free!
- ☐ I'm an adult. Enclosed is my USD \$10 payment.
- ☐ I'm generous! Enclosed is my \$____ donation.
- ☐ I'm full of ideas! Enclosed is my article, artwork, letter to the editor, or idea for *Synapse*!

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____

Country _____ Birthdate: _____

Mail to: Youth Office, UUA
25 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108

Make checks
payable to UUA.



From The Youth Office, UUA
25 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108 USA