

Gail Stratton

When I was growing up in New Mexico, I never dreamed that I would live in 7 different states and that I would end up making my home in Mississippi. My spiritual path was equally wandering and circuitous: having been active in a Lutheran church, a Baptist church, an Episcopal church (to name a few), I was delighted to find a church that affirmed what I really believe—that the quest for truth is ongoing, that all individuals deserve to be affirmed and that part of our moral obligation is to care not only for people but also for the natural world. I now live in Abbeville with my partner, Pat, our son, William, several cats, a dog, a fish and bonsai, and love to garden and do photography. I would like to join with my friends at UUCO to be a “voice for good in the world.”

>> MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP <<

The middle school youth group had a great fall, thanks to the students and their parents. As we look at the new year coming, the students would like to share their recent discussion of peace. First you'll see some quotes by famous and great thinkers, and then you'll find some quotes from not-so-famous but great young UU thinkers.

True peace is not merely the absence of war, but it is the presence of justice.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then he becomes your partner.

Nelson Mandela

Peace is a journey of a thousand miles and it must be taken one step at a time. Lyndon B. Johnson

I would say I am a non-violent soldier. In place of weapons of violence, you have to use your mind, your heart, your sense of humor, every faculty available to you...

Joan Baez

Peace is looking beyond your first thought to understand others. Peace is wolf. Peace is a balance between day and night, gentleness and

ferocity, love and hate.

Jillian

Peace is about happiness. Peace is about getting along. But most of all, peace is about love and compassion for all beings on earth. When you think of peace you might think of Gandhi or Martin Luther King, Jr., who devoted their lives to the love and compassion that we call peace. Maybe someday we all will be devoted to promoting tolerance and peace in the world.

Jean

In order to create peace, we must let every suggestion be heard and handle all conflicts fairly. In order to create peace, we must first convince all to believe in peace.

Ruby

**>> MIDSOUTH DISTRICT NEWS CLIPS <<
With Gratitude and Thanks**

A complete “Report on Giving to the Unitarian Universalist Association” for fiscal year 2003-2004 is online at:

<http://www.uua.org/giving/annualreport2004.pdf>.

The report is an expression of gratitude for the individual and congregational support that makes it possible for our Association of Congregations to provide programs and services to our congregations and to bring our message of tolerance and religious freedom to the wider society. Thank you, all.

Interested in Serving on a UUA Committee?

Do you have interests and talents that you'd like to use to benefit Unitarian Universalism and our wider UU family? The UUA relies on energetic and committed volunteers to serve on the committees, boards and panels that work with staff to carry out the mission and ministry of our Association. Information about available positions and an application form are at:

www.uua.org/TRUS/cocmbrochure.html.

The deadline is August 15, 2005, for 2-year committee terms that begin in January 2006. This is a great way to meet other UUs, serve our movement and sharpen your leadership skills!

The UUA's Nominating Committee coordinates elective positions, such as President and Moderator. The required paperwork for running for these positions must be filed by February 1, 2004 See: www.uua.org/administration/nominating.html.

Discussion List for the Science-Minded

Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of people trained in science, engineering and other technical disciplines have found a comfortable spiritual home in one of our UU congregations. One of the reasons for this is that UUs do not hold dogmatic supernatural beliefs that must be reconciled with the revelations of science. A new UUA-hosted email forum, Scitechnetwork-uu, provides an opportunity for UUs with scientific and technical interests to discuss how their scientific perspective relates to their liberal religious or humanistic faith.

Sign up at www.uua.org/mailman/listinfo.

The Press Room

A new feature on the UUA web site (www.uua.org/pressroom/) provides members of the media quick access to useful materials, including an index of recent articles, UUA press releases, and an electronic media kit. Individual UUs will find it a useful way to follow our Association's public witness activities.

The Press Room is a service of the UUA's Office of Information & Public Witness, which plans and directs the UUA's public outreach programs to help increase awareness of Unitarian Universalism. The office provides congregations and districts with a variety of resources for their own communication efforts, oversees public relations training programs, and coordinates national public radio campaigns. It also responds to information inquiries from constituents, the general public, and the media. The UUA's Customer Service Representative serves as the contact person for any complaints regarding the Association's service. The office also works in collaboration with the Office of Electronic Communications to develop and maintain the UUA's presence on the World Wide Web.

New Literary Magazine Seeks Writers

The Continental Unitarian Universalist Young Adult Network (C*UUYAN) is going to publish a

new online journal of ideas and articles and invites submissions from young adults 18-35. Articles, essays, sermons, reflections, poetry, liturgies and stories of what UU life is like for you would be welcomed, along with ideas for the magazine's title (C*UUYAN previously published a magazine called *Ferment*). One of the things that brings young adults together is the unique perspective they bring to issues like theology, justice, liturgy and church. If you have thoughts on these topics or any others of relevance to C*UUYANers and the UU community at large, send them to Liz Schwartz at: yaLiz@yruu.net.

Anti-Racism Conferences

In response to a growing number of requests for youth and young adult-led anti-racism trainings, the Continental UU Young Adult Network (C*UUYAN), Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU), and the Unitarian Universalist Association are sponsoring three anti-racism conferences in February 2005. These conferences will be regionally based, focusing on congregational youth and young adult groups, local campus ministry groups, and area young adults. The conferences will provide youth and young adults an opportunity to participate in the important anti-racism work currently happening on the continental level.

Dates and locations:

February 4-6 in Bloomington, IN (UU Church of Bloomington)

February 11-13 in Portland, OR (West Hills UU Fellowship)

February 18-20 in Cambridge, MA (First Parish Cambridge)

Cost: \$20-\$40, sliding scale.

This includes registration, food, and housing.

Registration: There is no online registration for these events. More information and a registration form are at:

www.uua.org/ya-cm/conferences/RegionalARAO.html

Mail to the registrar of the event you plan to attend.