



## General Assembly in Charlotte Provides Ample Opportunity for Environmental Justice Engagement

### Environment & Justice Workshops and Events at General Assembly

Ellen McClaran, UUMFE Board Member, and Rowan Van Ness, UUMFE Environmental Justice Program Associate

This year's 50th anniversary GA (June 22 – 26), offers an abundance of workshops related to environmental justice (EJ) that may be of interest to UUMFE members and supporters. This is particularly true for congregations looking for EJ projects for the Green Sanctuary certification process. In addition, the UUMFE Annual meeting will feature an interactive sample of former UUMFE board president Barbara Ford's GAIA Workshops: Growing Awareness Into Action ([www.gaiaworkshops.net](http://www.gaiaworkshops.net)) – see article on page 4.

If you are attending General Assembly, refer to your program of the location and times of the workshops described below and be sure to drop by our booth to say "hi." For those unable to attend, check the UUA website later this summer for synopses of these workshops.

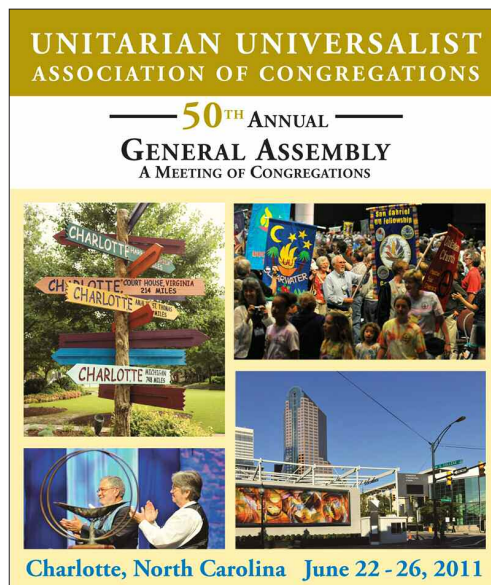
This year, delegates will consider making the Congregational Study Action Issue on Ethical Eating:

Food and Environmental Justice a Statement of Conscience. The Thursday, June 23, programming starts off with the **Ethical Eating Statement of Conscience Mini-Assembly** from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Hosted by the Commission on Social Witness (CSW), this three-hour mini-assembly is your only opportunity to propose amendments to the draft Statement of Conscience (SOC) on Ethical Eating: Food & Environmental Justice. General comments and small

group drafting of amendments will be done here. The text of the SOC is in the Agenda book. CSW members Caitlin DuBois, Rev. Dr. Paul Johnson, Dr. David May, Chair, and Rev. Heather Starr will facilitate the mini-assembly.

The 4:30 p.m. program slot on Thursday includes UU Ministry for Earth's own workshop, **Connecting Environmental Justice and Immigration**. This workshop will frame the relationship between immigration and environmental justice and demonstrate on-the-ground

work by using congregational case studies. Presenters include Rev. Deborah Cayer, Acting Lead Minister, Eno River UU Fellowship, Rowan Van Ness, Environmental Justice Program Associate, UU Ministry for Earth, and a representative from the National Farm Workers' Ministry. *cont'd on page 3*



Charlotte, North Carolina June 22 - 26, 2011

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Unitarian Universalist  
Ministry for Earth

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### ABOUT UUMFE

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Ministry for Earth is a non-  
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supporters envision a world  
in which reverence, grati-  
tude, and care for the living  
Earth is central to the lives  
of all people. As a 501(c)3  
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## From the Board

### Actions Become Habits

**M**y pledge for the 40/40 for Earth Challenge – action 1: I will focus on improving our household energy conservation as a meditation on water quality issues related to power generation. I grew up fishing and swimming in the waters of South Florida and drank unfiltered well water for most of my youth. Now, I am not so sure about the safety of our waters. For one, the coal-fired power plants in the region have contributed to a higher mercury content in our waters and fish. What a loss!

With this part of my pledge, I planned to become quite a pest with thoughts and comments like, 'Turn it off,' and 'Unplug it,' and 'Is that really necessary?' This is not new thinking for us – we have been conserving for years, but small wasteful habits develop over time, and I planned to challenge them. When the 40/40 pledge calendar started, I thought this would be very noticeable in our daily routine and generate many opportunities to meditate on the sacredness of our waters – and perhaps some 'looks' from my husband Bob. Instead, we are surprised how quickly these mindful actions became habits that we do not question. Now what? Should I change the pledge action?

Your stories of your pledges and your Earth Day programs have been an inspiration to us at UUMFE. The stories share with us many different and effective ways to honor Sacred Waters, to build community, and to make change where needed. I used them to develop other actions for my pledge to deepen the experience. And, we want to learn more. Keep sending the stories to [envirojustice@uuministryforearth.org](mailto:envirojustice@uuministryforearth.org) through late June.

So where do I go from here with my pledge and beyond? Another of my pledge actions was to learn more about my local watershed and to do follow-up community action. In learning more about my local water and water issues in general, I see that most of the actions in our lives are connected to water. For example, the food we choose has a big impact, so I will be paying close attention to my personal choices and to the progress of our denominational Statement of Conscience (SOC) on Ethical Eating: Food and Environmental Justice at the General Assembly of the UUA in Charlotte next month. For my awareness and action to take on significant meaning, I want to be part of a community/movement for change. The SOC is a way to empower our greater numbers as a denomination to join this movement.

While on the subject of the General Assembly, the President's report on The Green Revolution will be presented. This report was requested by the membership with the passage of a Business Resolution at the 2010 General Assembly. The report is required to include information '... on our Association's progress in promoting environmental stewardship and environmental justice, with recommendations for action in the twenty first century.' We look forward to Rev. Morales' presentation.

Will you be coming to General Assembly 2011? The UUMFE booth in the Exhibit Hall (#1022) is right up front. Stop by and introduce yourself. We have assembled materials on other ideas for actions and projects that you can use in your congregations. You also can learn about the new Northwest Earth Institute workshop from one of their experts and meet a representative from one of the UU State Advocacy Networks, who will also be sharing our booth. We are working on that community and movement. Come join us!

*Irene Keim, Co-Chair, UU Ministry for Earth Board* ♦

## More General Assembly News

### Environmental Justice at GA. . . from page 1

At 10:45 a.m. on Friday, June 24, Robin Nelson of Congregational Services will present **Green Sanctuary: Building Faith Communities**. Using the Green Sanctuary Program model, participants will explore how we can take our environmental work and use it to build the multicultural, multiracial, multi-generational communities we strive to achieve. A quick overview of the program will be included and the focus will be on environmental justice and working with other communities.



Friday afternoon at 1 p.m., after the delegates vote on the Ethical Eating: Food and Environmental Justice SOC in the morning Plenary, Rev. Dr. Paul Johnson and Rev. John Gibb Millspaugh will lead a discussion on **Implementing the Newly Adopted UUA Statement of Conscience**. They ask, "what now?" and answer, "it's time for inspired implementation!" In this session, national leaders will provide insight and gather ideas for congregational actions in alignment with our principles. Come to learn, teach, share, and provide feedback. Leave inspired and equipped!

**Building Resilient Congregations for Economic & Ecological Transition** is sponsored by the Common Security Club Network and the Institute for Policy Studies during this same program slot. Panelists Chuck Collins and Jared Gardener note that, in response to overwhelming economic and ecological realities, UU congregations are forming small groups to help their members find connection, information, and avenues to a new kind of security based on mutual aid and support. This workshop will help participants adapt the thriving "Common Security Club" approach for their own congregations.

Friday afternoon at 2:45 p.m., Rev. John Gibb Millspaugh will introduce Rev. Michael Schuler and his lecture titled **The Welcome Table: Common Ground on Ethical Eating**. Food was a contentious issue for the first Christians, Paul's epistles reveal. Today we are still trying to reconcile the ethics of eating with our hunger for community. Rev. Schuler, an authority on sustainability and Senior Minister of our 1500 member Madison congregation, will offer fresh ideas to chew on.

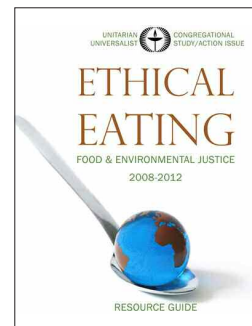
During the final program slot on Saturday, June 25, at 1 p.m., the UU United Nations Office (UU-UNO) will present the **Greeley Award Sermon: Ethical Aspects of Climate Change**. The 2011 Dana Greeley Award Sermon winners are Rev. Craig Schwalenberg and Sarah Summers. This keynote sermon competition, sponsored by the UU-UNO, highlights the ethical aspects of climate change in 2011. A check for \$1,000 will be presented to the winners, who have been chosen from among many sermons submitted to the UU-UNO from across North America. The Greeley Sermon is always a stirring event not to be missed. Bruce Knotts, Executive Director of the UU-UNO) will introduce the speakers. ♦

## What's Happening with the "Ethical Eating: Food and Environmental Justice" Statement of Conscience Process?

*Terry Wiggins, UUMFE Board Member*

According to the formal dates announced on the UUA website, there is nothing happening between the Feb. 1, 2011 deadline for Congregational Poll ballots and comment forms, which is already passed, and June 22-26, 2011, when General Assembly delegates consider the Statement of Conscience at GA in Charlotte, NC. But a lot has been happening behind the scenes.

First, the Commission on Social Witness issued a revised draft of its initial statement last month, prompting a lively online discussion on the Ethical Eating listserv. Now, the Ethical Eating Core Team is organizing "a strategic coalition of partners who can cooperate to make this statement the best possible." UU Ministry for Earth is one of those partners. Given this commitment to participation, we will be writing our top priorities for revision to the statement, which the Core Team will combine with the priorities from other partners. The groups will then have the first ten days of June to decide if they can support the full slate of revisions,



## More General Assembly News

in exchange for the support of all other groups for our top priorities.

If all works as planned, we will be promoting the slate of proposed changes to our membership, both before General Assembly through various electronic methods, and also at General Assembly in our booth, our workshop, the mini-assembly, and on the GA floor. We are looking forward to having a strong Statement of Conscience easily passed by more than the required two-thirds majority.

Again, if all has gone as planned, and a statement is adopted, then we would be looking forward to June 20-24, 2012: General Assembly 2012 in Phoenix, AZ, when workshops would be held on the topic, to conclude the Study/Action cycle for Ethical Eating: Food and Environmental Justice. ♦

### UUMFE Annual Meeting at General Assembly

*Irene Keim, UUMFE Board Co-Chair*

Join UUMFE Board members and friends for an interactive sample of former board president Barbara Ford's *GAIA Workshops: Growing Awareness Into Action* (see article on page 6 and [www.gaiaworkshops.net](http://www.gaiaworkshops.net)). This is part of the program for the UUMFE Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 23, 6:15-7:15 p.m. at the Hilton Charlotte City Center, South Carolina Hall. The Hilton is on Third Street, one block from the Convention center. The event will start with a brief business meeting to elect UUMFE Board members. After Barbara's workshop activity, you are invited to join in refreshments and conversation with your UUMFE friends.

The slate of Board members nominated for two-year terms includes new nominees Cindy Davidson, Lexington, MA, and Rev. Wendy Bell, Harvard, MA. Continuing Board members include Ellen McClaran, Reston, VA (2009), Vince Pawlowski, Tucson, AZ (2009), and Nancy King Smith, Shaker Heights, OH (2007). They will join Irene Keim, Bushnell, FL (first elected in 2008), Rev. Earl Koteen, Berkeley, CA (2010), Ann May, Houston, TX (2004), and Karen Urbano, Woodland, CA (2004). Terry Wiggins of Milwaukee, WI, who has ably served as Treasurer of UUMFE since 2005, is retiring from the Board this year. We appreciate her dedicated service.

Cindy Davidson has been an active member of First Parish in Lexington, MA, since 1998, serving on the Board, and as Chair of the Social Action and Music Committees. She co-chaired the Green Sanctuary Committee through the certification process, from 2007-2010, and continues to bring environmental issues to the Social Action Committee. As a mother of four, Cindy has followed environmental issues for many years, focusing in particular on food and health issues. She is a retired leader of La Leche League and currently has a small therapeutic massage practice. She envisions a clean and healthy environment for all the children of the world, present and future.

Cindy believes the UU faith brings a unique voice to religious environmentalism. She looks forward to devoting time and energy to working at the denominational level with UUMFE and to helping broaden its connections with the interfaith environmental movement.

Rev. Wendy Bell has served as a minister to congregations for eleven years, including one year as an interim minister in Rockport, MA, and the last ten years as the settled minister in Harvard, MA. During this time she also served as a Board member and as President of the Clara Barton District (UUA) Board. Before her ordination, she had experience working for a few years in the Office of Ministerial Education at the UUA headquarters in Boston and as the Administrator for the UU Ministers' Association.

Wendy also recently completed an 18-month Fellowship Program with GreenFaith, a New Jersey-based, interfaith, religious environmental organization whose purpose is to educate, equip, and empower religious leaders – lay and ordained – to be stronger, more effective environmental leaders. GreenFaith and the UUA recently entered into a partnership agreement to increase the number of Unitarian Universalists who might participate in the Fellowship Program. ♦



*UUMFE Board members, with two activists from the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), during their winter meeting in Boston.*

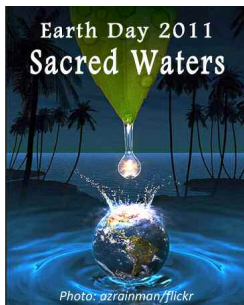


# News From UU Ministry For Earth

## Earth Day Excitement

Ellen McClaran, UUMFE Board Member

With the help of Rowan Van Ness, our Program Associate for Environmental Justice at the UUA, UUMFE once again developed a comprehensive set of resources for UUs to use for their Earth Day activities. This year we asked congregations to celebrate the sacred waters that sustain us all and commit to actions that will make our world more just. We continued the popular 40/40/40 Project, created in honor of the 40th anniversary of Earth Day last year, with a 40/40 for Earth Challenge – 40 people in a congregation



pledge to perform a water justice (or other) action for 40 days.

Almost ninety congregations registered on the UUMFE website, with over half reporting activities related to water justice and/or the 40-40 for Earth Challenge. How

exciting – so many fresh, creative ideas! Check the main Earth Day 2011 page on the UUMFE website for a table of all activities. Now your post-Earth Day stories and photos are starting to come in (send to Rowan at [rvanness@uua.org](mailto:rvanness@uua.org)) and will be included on our website as well as our Facebook pages. ♦

Next year, Earth Day will fall on Sunday, April 22. In support of the current Study Action Issue, our theme will focus on the intersection of environmental justice and immigration. Get involved now and help us develop materials – send your ideas to [envirojustice@uuministryforearth.org](mailto:envirojustice@uuministryforearth.org).

## "Food Day" Scheduled for Oct. 24 Thousands of events will encourage Americans to "Eat Real"

Cindy Davidson, Incoming UUMFE Board Member

Organized by the Center for Science in the Public Interest, this new national campaign brings together some of the most prominent voices for change in the food movement, and an array of health, hunger, and sustainable agriculture

groups. Food Day will be observed on and about Monday, Oct. 24, 2011, and is expected to include a series of marquee events in Washington, DC, New York, San Francisco, and other major cities, as well as thousands of smaller events around the country. UUMFE encourages all congregations to become involved in this important new opportunity to promote food justice – details in the fall newsletter.



Using the model of Earth Day, CSPI is encouraging people around the country to sponsor or participate in activities that encourage Americans to "eat real" and support healthy, affordable food grown in a sustainable, humane way. "Food Day will bring together a lot of people with common interests in food issues, but who otherwise haven't worked all that closely together," said Michael F. Jacobson, who founded CSPI forty years ago. "So whether your primary concern is human health, farm policy, or the quality of life in rural America, Food Day can be an opportunity to start solving local and national food problems from the ground up." Among CSPI's principles are to reduce diet-related disease by promoting healthy foods, to support sustainable farms and cut subsidies to agribusiness, to expand access to food and alleviate hunger, to reform factory farms to protect animals and the environment, and to curb junk-food marketing to kids.

Food Day Advisory Board member Alice Waters, proprietor of the acclaimed Chez Panisse restaurant in Berkeley, California comments, "Why Food Day? It is time to make real food the number-one priority in our country . . . The choices we make about food affect our health, the health of the planet – and the way we live our lives." Author Michael Pollan adds, "Food Day is an opportunity to celebrate real food and the movement rising to reform the American food system."

For more information about Food Day and to participate in or to search for events, visit <http://foodday.org>. For information about the Center for Science in the Public Interest and its work on food issues, visit <http://www.cspinet.org>. ♦

# News From UU Ministry For Earth

## “Moving Planet” Set for Sept. 24

*350.org sponsors Global Day of Action to move beyond fossil fuels*

*Cindy Davidson, Incoming UUMFE Board Member*

The organizers at 350.org have announced their newest campaign: Moving Planet, a worldwide rally to demand solutions to the climate crisis – a single day to move away from fossil fuels.

Following the success and format of earlier events, such as 10/10/10 in Oct. 2010, the campaign supports and shares information with organizers in over 188 countries all over the world. Those organizers will be holding events meant to focus on the role of fossil fuels in the climate crises, focus on solutions, and demand that industry and government officials move from inaction to action. UUs have been participating in 350.org events since the organization was founded in 2007 and this fall will be no exception – mark your calendar and watch for additional details on the UUMFE website and in the fall newsletter.

Moving Planet envisions events that “make the climate message move, literally. We’ll show that we can use our hands, our feet, and our hearts to spur

real change. In many places, people will ride bicycles, one of the few tools used by both affluent and poor people around the world. In other places people

will be marching, dancing, running, kayaking, or skateboarding. Imagine the spectacle – thousands of people encircling national capitols, state houses, and city halls. Will you join in?”

Founded by Bill McKibben, 350.org is building a global grassroots movement to solve the climate crisis. Its online campaigns, grassroots organizing, and mass public actions are led from the bottom up by thousand of volunteer organizers all over the world. For more information about Moving Planet, including on-line resources such as organizing guides, ideas, posters, and fliers, visit [www.350.org](http://www.350.org). ♦



## UUMFE Introduces a New Experiential Workshop for Congregations and Districts

*Irene Keim, UUMFE Board Co-Chair*



### Staying Present for a Troubled World

U U Ministry for Earth is partnering with Barbara Ford of *GAIA Workshops* to offer new experiential workshops to churches and districts across the country to address these concerns of congregants. A portion of the workshop proceeds will go to support the important work of UU Ministry for Earth.

Barbara facilitates workshops on activism, spirituality, and creativity through *GAIA Workshops – Growing Awareness Into Action* ([www.gaiaworkshops.net](http://www.gaiaworkshops.net)). She is also an artist, singer, facilitator, activist, and a colleague of Joanna Macy. Barbara is a member of UU Ministry for Earth and served as the Board Chair for three years.

Here is a testimony of the effect of Barbara’s workshop by a recent participant: “Staying on task with our work of healing the Earth is hard these days, especially with the denial and resistance to change we see all around us. Barbara’s workshop was like an oasis in the desert offering respite, confronting the despair, and finding strength in a community of companions.”

Barbara will be attending the UUA General Assembly in Charlotte this year and will be available for discussions about a workshop in your area. Also, she will be leading a small sample of a workshop at the UUMFE Annual Meeting in Charlotte on Thursday evening at the Hilton Hotel. The Meeting will begin at 6:15 pm. (see article on page 4). Stop by the UUMFE Booth (#1022) in the Charlotte Convention Center Exhibit Hall for more information.

For more information or to schedule a workshop, please e-mail [office@uuministryforearth.org](mailto:office@uuministryforearth.org). ♦

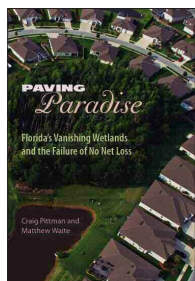
# News From UU Ministry For Earth

## Book Review: *Paving Paradise*

Bob Keim, former UUMFE Board Member

Craig Pittman and Matthew Waite, authors of *Paving Paradise*, work for The St. Petersburg Times, one of Florida's last independent newspapers. In this work they have put together a detailed chronicle of the effects of the federal government's "No Net Loss" policy with regards to wetlands – and of its staggering failure to protect the Florida environment.

Whether the agency responsible is the Army Corps of Engineers, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, or



any of a number of other federal, state, and local governmental bodies, the story is the same: permit development as quickly as possible, get rid of those "unnecessary" wetlands, and mitigate somewhere. And this approach has resulted in the disappearance of

over 100,000 acres of wetlands – essential habitat for fish, amphibian, bird, and plant species – just since the late 1980s.

Read this well-written and fact-filled book at your own peril, and be prepared to get mad, lose sleep, and to then start looking around for those who can help you change this picture of the world. You are needed – *now*. ♦

## Northwest Earth Institute Issues New Edition of *Voluntary Simplicity*

Lacy Cagle and the NWEI Team

As summer approaches, we're reminded of the many simple things that make this coming season so special: growing your own food in your garden; setting off on a leisurely bike ride; or going for a nice cool evening stroll after a warm, sunny day. These small miracles – these simple things – are what matter most.

With that in mind, we're very excited to announce the release of our newly revised edition of *Voluntary Simplicity*. Within the faith community, *Voluntary Simplicity* has been our most popular course for quite some time. Hundreds of congregations nationwide have used it to help build community and fos-

ter meaningful discussions about their lives. Through the years, we've been compiling feedback on all the ways that we can make it even better.



This new edition contains:

- more content addressing technology and its effects on our lives,
- revised and easier to use action plans, and
- additional resources using a variety of media, including podcasts and TED talk videos.

With so many ways to stay technologically connected, we all need a little time to just unplug. Organizing a *Voluntary Simplicity* course together with friends, family, and members of your congregation can be a great way to do just that: unplug and have a meaningful discussion about what's important in your life.

Order it today (<http://www.nwei.org/order-form>)! If you select UUMFE/Green Sanctuary as your "connection" when you order this or any of our other excellent discussion guides, NWEI will share some of the profit with UUMFE. ♦



UUMFE member and advisor Pam Sparr (second from left) with attendees at her workshop during Power Shift 2011, the fifth annual national youth climate summit. Over 10,000 young leaders converged on DC to stand up for our future including Krista Bowers (in the orange scarf). A UU from Salt Lake City and good friend of Tim DeChristopher, she was one of the 21 activists arrested during the "Reclaim Power" action at the Dept. of Interior following Power Shift on April 18. The charges were dropped on May 10. Way to go, Krista! See <http://www.peacefuluprising.org> for more. ♦





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## UU Church of Davis Celebrates Earth Day with Earthfest

*Judy Moores, Green Sanctuary Co-Chair*

The pictures to the right were taken at the April 17 Earthfest at the UU Church of Davis in Davis, CA. We had an all-church picnic, Veggie cook-off, a play put on by teens for our children – "How the Flowers Got their Colors" – face-painting, book sale and exchange, etc. as our Earth Week celebration. The play took the children on a walk around the church grounds to see flowers of different colors. At each stop, they also had an activity – looking for insects, smelling or gently feeling poppy petals, etc. We also gave an Eco-hero award to Lynne Nittler and collected over sixty letters in support of the UULMCA's sacred water effort to get legislation passed on "Human Rights to Water." We had perfect weather and it was a lovely day! ♦



### Your Support Is Needed and Appreciated

This issue of the UUMFE newsletter highlights exciting projects that depend on you. Your donations make possible the work towards Earth ministry as an integral part of our UU experience. Go to [www.uuministryforearth.org](http://www.uuministryforearth.org) for donation options, as well as many UUMFE resources. Thank you for your support. ♦