

The Seventh Principle Project



Volume 2
Issue 2
Spring 2003

Sponsors of the
Green Sanctuary
Program

Newsletter

Eight Fantastic Reasons to Attend General Assembly in Boston this June!

The Seventh Principle Project is offering a wide spectrum of not-to-be-missed programming at this year's General Assembly. Whether you are just putting your toe in the water as a fledgling Green Sanctuary candidate or you are leading the march as a UU environmental activist, there will be inspirational programming and pertinent information for you!

Thursday, June 26, 10-3 PM: Pre-Conference Workshop "Becoming a Green Sanctuary" (see article on page 6).

Friday, June 27, 2:45-4:00 PM: Seventh Principle Annual Meeting. In addition to a brief business meeting which will include election of Board, we will be honoring the achievements of our new Green Sanctuary congregations, celebrating together with songs led by Jim Scott, and dancing the Elm Dance which inspired villages near Chernobyl and is now danced around the world in celebration of eco-activists everywhere.

Friday, June 27, 4:30-5:45 PM: "Footsteps to Follow: Learning from Green Sanctuary Congregations." This workshop will present a smorgasbord of ideas for projects, programs, and practices. Activists from candidate and certified Green Sanctuaries across the country will share stories about their work in congregations and interfaith coalitions. This will be a stimulating "show and tell."

Friday, June 27, 4:30-5:45 PM: "Introducing the Earth and Spirit Songbook" compiled by past Seventh Principle Chair Jim Scott and sponsored by the Seventh Principle Project.

Friday, June 27, 8:45-10PM: Bill McKibben, "Crossing


Moral and Environmental Thresholds." Humans confront two enormous borders to cross. We are raising the planet's temperature, and we are learning to manipulate genes. Both present grave practical dangers - but more, they pose the key moral and ethical questions of our lifetimes. Come explore humanity's options with this acclaimed environmentalist and author, and learn about his newest book, "Enough."

Saturday, June 28, 8:45-10 PM: "Walking the Eco-Spirit Path." Our respect for the interdependent web of all existence calls us to revitalize our relationship with the Earth, enriching our spiritual life while strengthening our commitment to sustainable living and environmental justice. UU ministers will share practices from their personal and congregational life that help them to nurture the eco-spirit.

Sunday, June 29, 5:15-6:30 PM: Frances Moore Lappe, "Traveling Hope's Edge: Building a Just, Sustainable Planet." Ms. Lappe, co-author with her daughter, Anna, of "Hope's Edge: The Next Diet for a Small Planet", will share stories from their travels around the world to meet ordinary people of extraordinary courage. Ms. Lappé will share with us how grassroots movements around the world are effecting change that demonstrates the human capacity for building a just and sustainable world. This program is co-sponsored by Unitarian Universalists for Just Economic Community.

Monday, June 30, 8:00-9:15 AM: "Leaving Smaller Environmental Footprints Through Renewable Energy". Lara Hoke from Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light and Erika Morgan from Maine Interfaith Power and Light will ably present an array of renewable energy


options available to you and your congregation to reduce your contributions to global warming and to promote environmental justice.

Monday, June 30, 11:30AM-12:PM: “Walking the Walk: Greening General Assembly.” Large conferences leave a heavy footprint on our planet. Following our Seventh Principle we examine how we can reduce the environmental impact of our meetings and prepare for a greener GA. Inspirational and practical presentations, tools for assessing your personal impact, and a discussion with experts and members of the UUA GA Program Planning Committee for 2004. 

Claudia Kern, SPP GA Events Coordinator



Note from the Newsletter Editor:

One of the joys of being the editor of this newsletter is the opportunity to read the articles as soon as they arrive and then to incorporate graphics to highlight the articles. Of course, for this newsletter, footprints was an obvious choice. As I looked for footprint clipart I often ran across clipart of various animals and their tracks. These clips brought to mind many childhood adventures following tracks and deciphering just who had made them. I realize now that one of the most wonderful aspects of finding tracks is the sense of sharing that place with another creature. One of the activities the Seventh Principle Project is sponsoring at GA is a method for calculating our individual ecological footprints (page 6). Having already done this, I can I vouch for the fact that this is a sobering experience, but a worthy and informative one. Remembering my joy as a child of sharing nature with other creatures, I realize that in working to lessen the “depth” and “breadth” of our footprints we are working to ensure that our footprints will not be alone, but will always be accompanied by those of so many wonderful fellow creatures. 

Sharon Roberts, Newsletter Editor

Board News:

Amidst doses of laughter and tenderness, and despite problems with locked buildings and doors, the Seventh Principle Project (SPP) Board completed another successful Board meeting on January 31 – February 2 in Washington, D.C.

We were joined on Friday evening by Meg Riley, Director of the UUA’s Office of Advocacy and Witness (formerly Faith in Action), who also generously provided space for our meetings. We shared our visions of the connections between environmental work and Unitarian

Universalism and of how we might create more interactions between SPP and the UUA. As an affiliate program, the SPP receives no direct support from the UUA, but we talked about whether and how this might change a few years down the road. Katherine Jesch, our Director of Environmental Ministry, had a similarly successful meeting earlier in the week with Meg and UUA President Bill Sinkford. Katherine and the Board are quite pleased with these positive conversations and look forward to more in the future.

Other highlights of the meeting included:

- Planning for the fabulous programs and workshops we are sponsoring at General Assembly this year in Boston (see related article).
- Discussion of a SPP grant being used by singer, songwriter Jim Scott, who is compiling and producing an Earth Songbook, which should be available at GA.
- Starting the process of “greening” General Assembly for 2004.
- Presentation on a program of environmental actions that can be taken by congregations, as part of or separate from the Green Sanctuary program.
- Updates on a logo, brochure, web site, data base, and newsletters.
- Report on the Green Sanctuary program and the nearly completed revised Manual.
- Discussion of the need for fundraising.

The Board will focus on this last point at its next meeting in early April. We have worked hard on a vision of where we would like SPP to be in 3-5 years and we believe strongly in the importance of this work. Our current budget is \$21,000 and we do a lot for that money. But, we believe we can do so much more and envision a budget 3-4 times this amount. The trick, of course, is coming up with the necessary combination of grants, donations, and other income to make it work. Any ideas or suggestions you may have would be welcome. Please contact me at 802-388-7669 or smaier@adelphia.net.

And, by the way, we did finally get the keys to the building. It was a measure of our focus and persistence, however, that great work happened while sitting and waiting in a hallway near Dupont Circle.

Steve Maier, Chair



SPP Relationship with UUA is Growing

Coversations with Rev. Bill Sinkford, President of the UUA, and Meg Riley, Director of the UUA Office of Advocacy and Witness, are helping to deepen and expand our institutional relationships.

Rev. Sinkford has affirmed in several venues his belief that SPP has carried the environmental conscience for the UUA essentially alone for too long. He believes it is time for the UUA to take a greater role in supporting and carrying out the environmental commitments made over the years in nearly two dozen General Assembly resolutions (see

In the coming months we will be exploring several areas where collaboration between the UUA and SPP can yield important results. For example, the UUA can help us extend our contacts in our Green Sanctuary work with congregations through the Congregational Services staff group. We can also take advantage of the resources in the Congregational Fundraising office as we seek to expand support for SPP programs.

The Advocacy and Witness staff includes an internship program for social justice advocates. Meg Riley has stated her intention to obtain funding to add an environmental justice intern to this group. SPP should actively support fund raising for this position, and could also help in recruitment when funding is obtained.

An environmental audit of the Beacon Street buildings and operations is being initiated this spring, with the first level of evaluation to be conducted by Meadville-Lombard Theological School students Margaret Beard and Michael Tino. We have offered to help identify resources for follow-up actions that may be called for.

We are also initiating a major discussion on “greening” the General Assembly. This is a long term effort that may take several years to show significant results, but we see many possibilities for changing the way GA is “done” to reduce the impact on the earth. Close collaboration with the GA Planning Committee and staff will be essential as we explore what is possible and reasonable for such a large and complex enterprise. See the GA schedule in this issue for the program session on this issue.

As an initial way of supporting SPP program efforts, the Advocacy and Witness staff group has invited our Director of Environmental Ministry to begin working in the Washington office. Beginning this month, Katherine Jesch will be working in that office a couple of days each week, taking advantage of office support as well as spontaneous opportunities for collaboration.

We'll keep you posted as these efforts evolve, and as new opportunities for UUA collaboration emerge.

If you're interested in being directly involved in this expanding UUA relationship, contact Katherine so she can get you plugged in. 🙌

Seventh Principle Seeks New Board Candidates

Dear Friends,

It is my privilege to serve on the Board of the Seventh Principle Project. For the last two years, I have been part of a group of seven people from Oregon, Texas, Alabama, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont who are carrying the Seventh Principle Project organization to a new level of commitment and structural development. We have travelled long distances at our own expense to meet for marathon weekends of hammering out a vision and then creating the practical steps to carry forward that vision. Amidst that hard work, each of us has found a renewed sense of personal hope, the satisfaction of effecting change in UU Congregations and the UUA, and fellowship which has led to lasting friendships.

This year during General Assembly at the Seventh Principle Project Annual Meeting, you will have the opportunity to elect the Board which will serve for the following year. Six of us have agreed to continue on the Board at your pleasure; however, we are looking for at least three individuals to join our “merry band.” In particular, Dianne Rahm, our treasurer-extraordinaire, will be stepping down, and we are seeking a replacement who can not only prepare quarterly financial reports and prepare the annual budget, but who will be able to assist us in carrying out some major fundraising goals in the next few years.

We are also seeking two detail-oriented individuals to serve as our Board Scribe and as our Corresponding Secretary. Our meetings are action-packed, and having a Scribe to record our deliberations is an urgent necessity. A Corresponding Secretary is also urgently needed to assist us in communicating with our membership and others in a more timely fashion. In addition, we would welcome the candidacy of any of you who feel called to serve, especially those from unrepresented geographical areas and those with ministerial or District experience/perspective.

Truly, serving on this board is a privilege. If you are able to travel to at least three board meetings a year (there are four, including one at GA), are willing to make a serious, but reasonable commitment of time to forwarding the work of the Seventh Principle Project, and like to laugh a lot, please contact either Steve Maier, Board Chair, or me to learn more.

We look forward to hearing from you!
Claudia Kern, Vice Chair

Congratulations to Katherine Jesch, our Director of Environmental Ministry!!

After five years of study and preparation, our own Katherine Jesch will be ordained April 13th at 4:00pm at the UU Church of Arlington, VA, her home church. For those of you in the Washington, DC, metro area, Katherine would love to have you join in that celebration. Katherine plans to continue her environmental work as a community minister and in the coming months will be searching for a congregation that sees environmental work as a part of their ministry, and that would be open to exploring a relationship with her as an environmental minister. I hope you will keep me in your prayers as I begin this next phase of my faith journey.

Green Sanctuary News:

Green Sanctuary Program Continues to Grow

Interest and participation in the Green Sanctuary Program is expanding by leaps and bounds! Many are finding the Green Sanctuary program is just the antidote they need to the discouragement and frustration, if not downright despair, of these uncertain times. The level of enthusiasm I see across the continent is truly a source of hope. We're building understanding and commitment for healing the earth that will carry us far beyond the present efforts to undo the progress of the past 30 years. So keep the faith!

Our list of Green Sanctuary candidates has nearly doubled since my last report in November, bringing us to a total of 23 candidate congregations! A growing number of other churches have undertaken the preliminary planning effort, with several that anticipate being ready to apply for candidacy in the coming months.

I am also hearing from congregations who anticipate calling for a congregational vote to become certified as Green Sanctuaries this spring. If your congregation is nearing this milestone, let me know about your progress.

It's all Happening in the Churches

Wonderful things are happening in congregations all over the country, and I encourage you to share your stories with each other. If you're not already signed on to the listserv, what are you waiting for? And if you are, have you told your story yet?

I was excited to hear of the National Wildlife Federation

certified wildlife garden at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin, Texas, for example. (And to see the video clip from their local news broadcast!)

Practical questions about environmental audits, recycling, dishwashing vs disposables, car pooling, invasive species, land use policies – the list of topics is unending. The listserv conversation allows you to draw on the experience of those who've already found solutions to the challenges you're struggling with. I encourage you to participate in this valuable resource.

A New Manual – at last!

Last summer we asked for feedback on the Green Sanctuary program and the Manual from participating congregations. We heard from a number of you, and based on the input we received, we have completed a fairly substantial revision of the program structure.

In this new edition of the Manual, we have modified the program steps to offer more flexibility and choice to fit the different circumstances we find in the many congregations who want to participate. Instead of six Action Areas, there are now four; instead of 17 activities, we now ask you to do only twelve. The initial steps that precede the application for candidacy are considered preparatory steps, designed to help you organize and structure a program that will be successful.

If your congregation is already well under way under the old program structure, it will be your choice as to whether you want to continue as is, or if it would work better for you to switch to the new structure. If this raises questions for you, I encourage you to give me a call to discuss the options. We certainly don't want you to lose momentum with any adjustments, and it's important to take advantage of the good work you have already accomplished.

For a short time, the new Manual is still a draft. This means we're continuing to update references and resources, and if we get questions or comments indicating a need for clarification, we'll certainly take care of that. But primarily we're formatting and adding graphics to make the Manual more attractive and user friendly. We plan to have the final version ready for distribution in May, at which time the price will increase to \$20.00. In the meantime, the current draft will remain at the bargain price of \$10.00. To get your copy, see the order form on page ____.

A Green Sanctuary Conference in Atlanta

Nearly 60 people from congregations around the southeastern region gathered in Atlanta, GA, on February 15 for a Green Sanctuary conference hosted by the UU Congregation of Atlanta (UUCA). Conference coordinator Lyn Conley, also a UUA Board of Trustees member, and her team of planners designed a day-long program of

workshops and presentations. Participants chose from among a list of topics ranging from religious education to landscaping, and public policy to community action. Sessions provided opportunities for dialogue, envisioning a more sustainable future in personal, congregational, and community lives. A special concert by Jim Scott opened the weekend event, filling hearts and souls with earth songs and getting everyone in the mood for the following day's events.

UUCA has just completed a major renovation and expansion of their church facility, and took advantage of the opportunity to show off the "green" aspects of their renovation project. A tour was offered before the opening session to acquaint participants with the energy conservation and other features that had been installed.

The keynote address featured Mr. George Bandy, Social Sustainability Manager at Interface Research, Inc., in Atlanta. Mr. Bandy's presentation, "I, Too, Have a Dream," was a take-off from Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech. He vividly drew the connection between racism and environmental degradation, suggesting that if Rev. King had lived, he would have been one of the leading voices for protecting natural resources and cleaning up toxic waste, recognizing that the poor and disenfranchised are the first victims of environmental damage. A free-flowing conversation followed the formal presentation, focusing on issues economics, corporate responsibility, and environmental justice, among others.

Participants in the workshop on the Green Sanctuary Program were the first to have an opportunity to examine the revised Green Sanctuary Manual and discuss the new process with interested congregations. Response was very positive, and the new Manual turned out to be a "best seller!"

Chicago Area Outreach by Elgin Green Sanctuary Activists

After hosting a Green Sanctuary workshop last fall, members of the UU Church of Elgin, IL, aren't content to maintain their focus only on actions within their own congregation. While the Green Sanctuary committee is accelerating efforts to integrate Green Sanctuary goals into congregational life, activists Dave Segel and Mary Alice Masonic are taking the show on the road in the greater Chicago area. In collaboration with the environmental task force of the UUs for Social Justice, Dave and Mary Alice are conducting a series of on-site Green Sanctuary presentations for other congregations. They have also made themselves available for phone consultation to UU congregations in the Chicago metropolitan and adjacent Wisconsin and Indiana areas.

In spreading the Green Sanctuary "gospel", Dave and Mary Alice have not limited themselves to only UU

churches. In Chicago, as in other areas, they are finding that the Green Sanctuary program has appeal in the interfaith networks as a way to frame environmental values for action in a context of faith and spirituality.

Green Sanctuary at District Assemblies

Districts across the UUA hold Assemblies or conferences every year, either in Spring or Fall. This is an excellent opportunity to share your experience and build networks with other green-inclined UUs. Anyone can propose a workshop, and if you'd like Seventh Principle Project or Green Sanctuary materials to share at these events, be sure to contact me in advance. I can even send a few Green Sanctuary Manuals on consignment if you'd like to sell them at a workshop.

I am aware of at least two District Assemblies where this is happening this spring. The Elgin Green Sanctuary Committee co-chairs will present a Green Sanctuary workshop on April 5th at the UU Central Midwest District Annual Meeting in Evanston. Their presentation will concentrate on visioning and process as well as provide information on the program.

The UU Church of Riverside, CA, is also hosting a GS workshop, this one at the Pacific Southwest District Assembly on April 25 to 27 in Irvine, California. Their workshop will feature a town meeting-style format in which participants will focus on what their church or fellowship has accomplished and plans to accomplish in the next six to twelve months. This is the second year in a row that Riverside has presented at the Assembly. 🐿

Katherine Jesch, Director of Environmental Ministry

Check Out the Green Sanctuary E-Mail List

Almost 200 UUs from all over North America are now signed up with the Green Sanctuary e-mail list and have been exchanging information about the program for several months now. The e-mail list is a great way to ask questions about Green Sanctuary or to share successes. It's easy to sign on to the list-serve (and to unsubscribe if you decide you don't like it). Point your web browser to: <http://www.uua.org/mailman/listinfo/greensanctuary> and follow the directions. Give it a try - we'd like to hear from you! If you have any problems or questions, contact List Manager Steve Maier (smaier@adelphia.net).



More Information about Seventh Principle Project Events at General Assembly in Boston

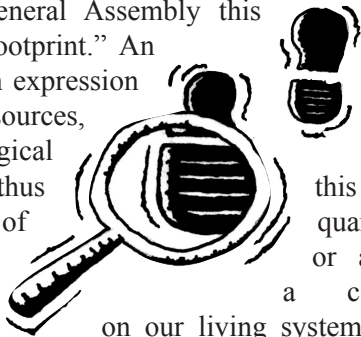
Pre-General Assembly Workshop: “Becoming A Green Sanctuary”

The overwhelming enthusiasm that greets us at our annual Green Sanctuary workshop at General Assembly has led us to try a different approach this year. Instead of the usual 75 minute program session, we will hold a 5-hour pre-conference workshop at the GA convention center on Thursday, June 27, from 10 am to 3 pm. Using a format that has proven successful at a number of congregations around the country last year, we'll explore the Green Sanctuary Program as a path to sustainable living and eco-justice. With more time at our disposal, we'll be able to share ideas, experiences, and resources in greater detail; create and expand networks among Green Sanctuary participants for greater mutual support; and develop strategies you can take home to initiate or enrich the Green Sanctuary efforts in your congregation.

Workshop fee of \$___ will include lunch and your own copy of the newly revised Green Sanctuary Manual. A ten percent discount is available for three or more registered from any one congregation. To register, send your check or money order with your name, mailing address, email address and the name of your congregation to the Seventh Principle Project office at PO Box 1523, Arlington, VA 22210.

GA Booth Preview: What's with all the Footprints?

The titles for this year's GA Programs (see page 1) use a lot of words like “walking,” “footprints,” “traveling,” “crossing thresholds,” and this issue of the newsletter is littered with footprints! Seventh Principle's theme for General Assembly this year is the “Ecological Footprint.” An ecological footprint is an expression of demand on Earth's resources, compared with the biological capacity of the planet, thus this calculation is one way of quantifying an individual's, or a business's, or even a congregation's impact on our living system. At our GA exhibit booth, we will be providing visitors with the interactive opportunity to calculate their individual and congregational environmental footprints using special computer programs, and, of course, we will be providing lots of practical information on how to reduce that footprint. Encourage everyone you know to stop by and participate! If you are not attending GA, but would like to



calculate your ecological footprint and learn more online, visit www.redefiningprogress.org.

“Greening General Assembly!”

In addition to our interactive booth, Seventh Principle will also be widely distributing a questionnaire at GA asking attendees to help us determine the environmental impact of General Assembly. Among the questions we will be asking are: How did you travel to GA?

How many air or road miles did you travel? Does your hotel take any environmental initiatives? Have you asked for and received vegetarian and/or organic food choices at the conference center and/or your hotel?

The results of these questionnaire will provide useful input as the Seventh Principle hosts a discussion with the GA Program Committee, experts in green conference planning, and interested UUs on how we can work together to reduce the negative environmental impact of future annual gatherings.

In the meantime, each of us can begin to make this GA (and our other journeys) more sustainable by taking the following steps:

1. Carpool or charter a bus if you are driving to GA.
2. Download a Green Hotel Initiative Guest Request Card from www.ceres.org/our_work/ghi.htm and use it when checking in and out of your hotel.
3. Offset the carbon dioxide emissions created by your travel by supporting wind and solar as renewable energy sources.



Help Wanted at GA! Here's your chance to get involved.

Will you be attending General Assembly in Boston this June? Can you volunteer two hours or more to the Seventh Principle? We are planning to be very visible at GA with a unique, interactive booth and a total of eight programs. Our goal is to communicate our mission to as many attendees as possible and to continue building membership and participation. To do this, we need the help of our members!

You can help in two ways. First, there will be an information table at each of our programs, and volunteers

are needed to help staff those tables immediately before and after the programs. Secondly, we hope to have one board member and at least one volunteer at the exhibit booth at all times. It would be wonderful to have volunteers from candidate and certified Green Sanctuary Congregations to share their experiences with passers-by.

GA is the Seventh Principle Project's major opportunity to reach out to the greater UU community with the message that, as UUs, we are called to address the spiritual and ethical aspects of human activity that affect the health and sustainability of the living Earth. Will you help us deliver this message by volunteering a few hours of your time at GA? Please check the preliminary GA schedule at www.uua.org/ga and then contact Board Member Rick North, at 503-968-1520 (Pacific time) or e-mail at hrnorth@hevanet.com and let him know the days and/or times you would be available. 🐾

Earth and Spirit songbook coming soon!

We hope you'll be as excited as we are that Jim Scott (UU musician, songwriter, and major activist for the Seventh Principle Project) is producing a new songbook he's calling *Earth and Spirit*. SPP sponsored his grant application last fall, and the UU Funding Program awarded \$8,000 for the project.

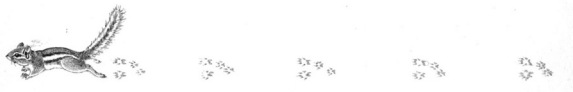
The *Earth and Spirit Songbook* will provide a resource for worship and religious education, as well as for any group celebrating the earth. Primarily intended as a tool for participatory group singing, this book is a first offering in a projected series of materials by the Seventh Principle Project. It will hopefully also serve as a fund raising tool for SPP.

Jim plans to include about a hundred songs in the volume, with melody, piano accompaniment and chord symbols for improvisers on all instruments. Categories of songs will include seasonal and religious celebrations, earth images, environmental justice issues, and human connections, among other topics. In addition to a number of Jim's own songs, the songbook will include offerings from a wide range of composers, both familiar and new.

The *Earth and Spirit Songbook* will be a valuable resource for Green Sanctuary congregations seeking to expand their repertoire for worship and celebration activities. Jim plans to introduce the book at a workshop at General Assembly, where it will be available for sale. 🐾

Newsletter News:

One of our goals this year is to publish the 7th PP newsletter four times a year. Help us reduce costs by receiving your newsletter electronically. The newsletter is available as a PDF document requiring only the free Adobe Acrobat Reader to open, view and print. The reader can be downloaded from www.adobe.com. To receive the newsletter via e-mail, please contact Claudia Kern at Phil.Kern@valley.net. 🐾



The Seventh Principle Project Needs You!

Help our organization grow by joining us today! We are a volunteer organization dedicated to affirming and promoting the Seventh Principle: "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." Annual membership is \$25.00. Please join or renew today by completing the membership form below and sending it along with your check to :

Seventh Principle Project
c/o Claudia Kern
PO Box 143
Lyme, NH 03768

Name: _____

Street or PO Box: _____

City: _____

State or Province: _____

Zip or Postal Code: _____

email address: _____

If you have questions regarding the Seventh Principle Project, the Green Sanctuary Program or membership, please contact us at membership@uasp.org or contact the office at (703)-920-3615.

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