



Legislative Ministries Focus on Climate Change

By *Karen Urbano, UUMFE Board*

Representatives of state legislative ministries met in late July to select a common issue to address together. Led by members of the UU Legislative Ministry – California, and its executive director, the Rev. Lindi Ramsden, representatives of emerging statewide networks from Pennsylvania, Maryland, Michigan, Massachusetts, Illinois, Minnesota, New York, and Washington gathered in Boston with the goal of working toward greater collaboration between the UUA, UUSC and statewide UU advocacy and justice networks. The meeting was underwritten by UU Service Committee.

Collaborative Priority

Stopping Climate Change & Global Warming was chosen as the collaborative priority. This priority meshes with that of the UUA, given the passage at General Assembly 2006 of the Statement of Conscience on “Threat of Global Warming/Climate Change.”

This issue also fits into the Environmental Justice work of UUSC. The state-wide advocacy networks would like to supplement one of the goals of the UU Ministry for Earth Green Sanctuary program to educate and organize UUs around public policy and legislation, particularly regarding environmental justice issues.

Local Justice Priorities

While each UU organization and local congregation will have its own justice priorities, respective advocacy boards were requested to hold an open space to allow planning for the collaborative issue.

In California, given the severe threat to water supplies that global warming could affect, working to stop climate change is a natural extension of the Water Justice work that is already a priority.

AB32, The California Climate Act of 2006, was passed by the State Assembly and signed by the

Information Available about Statewide Advocacy Groups

Contact Jacqueline Ladd at the UU Service Committee:

jladd@uusc.org
(617) 868-6600

governor. The UULM-CA action network was instrumental in passage of the Act, and plans to support the two-year implementation. The passage of this Act is an excellent model of an effective advocacy program, working on legislation favorable to environmental justice, that engaged the resources of both the UUA and UUSC.

Other Statewide Groups

Unitarian Universalists in other states are also developing statewide advocacy groups. New Hampshire has an established group and networks are emerging in Florida, Wisconsin, Rhode Island, New York State, and Virginia. ♦

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Reaping the Harvest of Collaborative Efforts

By Barbara Ford, Chair, UUMFE

As I sit here in the beautiful autumn sunshine (even in Portland!) surveying the changing leaves and pumpkins on my neighbors' porches, I am reflecting on the bounty of our work in this past year, and feeling great gratitude for the friendships and collaborations that have emerged out of the important work of UU Ministry for Earth. It seems that, even though the urgency of our work has never been so apparent, we are finally at a "tipping point" of activism, both within our denomination, and in the greater world. A combination of Hurricane Katrina, Al Gore, and undeniable news about planetary crisis is finally getting the attention of folks who chose, for whatever reason, to ignore the issue of climate change.

Within the denomination, the process of the Study/Action issue, and the resulting Statement of Conscience on Global Warming/Climate Change, has forged a stronger network of people working together to address the spiritual and justice issues of Earth Ministry. The scientists who provided the climate facts, the congregations working on their Green Sanctuary projects, the staff and volunteers from UU Ministry for Earth, UUSC, and other UU organizations who worked diligently for months to insure that we had a strong Statement of Conscience- all came together in an unprecedented way to raise the consciousness of members and leadership of our faith, with dynamic results. Here are some of the things that are happening across the country because of our collective work:

Unprecedented Growth

There is unprecedented growth in the number of Green Sanctuary applications since General Assembly 2006. We have had growth in congregational participation of forty percent compared to last year, and are expecting higher numbers in the coming months.

Earth Ministry Integral to Faith

The UUA Leadership is actively working with UU Ministry for Earth to promote Earth Ministry as an integral component of our faith. One result of our ongoing conversation with UUA leadership is an upcoming winter summit on Earth Ministry with staff and lay leaders in the (Continued on Page 3)



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"It is good, I tell myself, to live in this land of transition, in this land incipient with change, where the heart is drawn always beyond itself, and every ending is numinous with hope."

Excerpt from
A Haunting Reverence,
by Kent Nerburn

Reaping the Harvest - continued

denomination. In this summit, we will discuss the ways that the UUA can share more of the work, and set goals and timelines.

Collaborative Relationships

New collaborative relationships with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and other groups are yielding a network of mutual support and strengthened vision, particularly in the area of Environmental Justice. As a result, UU Ministry for Earth is in the initial planning stages for an unprecedented national UU conference on environmental justice, to occur within the next 18 months. Look for further information on this important event.

Need for Ministry

Discussions on the importance of sustainability, environmental justice, and the spiritual dimensions of earth concerns are increasing at record levels, among clergy and membership alike. One of the results of finally facing these difficult issues is coping with the fear, anger, and anxiety that emerges with the end of denial. The need for ministry has never been greater.

I recently attended an interfaith forum on Global Climate Change, and Bill McKibben, writer of the seminal book on climate change *The End of Nature*, addressed the group with strong words about the work before us. He stated that now is the time for all of us to start “operating out of our comfort zone”. He said that evangelical Christians were, at this point, doing it the most, challenging their leadership in some important ways, and embracing a new culture of justice. When I spoke with him afterwards, I noted that, while UUs were doing a lot, I didn’t think we were really operating a lot “out of our comfort zones”. He replied, “Yes, I think that UUs just have bigger comfort zones!”

So, I challenge each of us to do more “outside the zone”, at the same time I celebrate the work we have achieved thus far. Whether it is choosing not to drive as much (this week I found biking in the rain definitely outside my zone!), taking up a volunteer activity within the commu-

nity, lobbying your representative, or even talking with open hearts to family and friends about your concerns- it’s time to take action to keep the momentum going in this work.

A very concrete action you can take is to join or donate to UU Ministry for Earth, as an individual or family, or encourage others to do so. We are at a crucial time in our organizational development, and are working on our strategic plan for the future. In particular, we want to “up the ante” in our work and raise funds to pay an executive director to run the organization, thus freeing up our Director of Environmental Ministry, Rev. Katherine Jesch, for program and ministry. Please consider the ways you might be able to help move this work forward.

Thanks to all of you who are a part of this “Great Work”. Take time to celebrate our achievements, and keep up the good work. Remember to connect to Earth and your love for this beautiful planet, for, as Wendell Berry says, “What we do not love, we will not save.” ♦

In Memorium

A donation to UU Ministry for Earth was received in memory of
Marilyn Richardson,
 a beloved member of the
 Unitarian Universalist Society: East,
 Manchester, CT.

Warm Reflections on the Chill of Winter

By Rev. Katherine Jesch,
Director of Environmental Ministry and
Green Sanctuary Program Coordinator

I first discovered the joy of winter when I moved to Portland the first time in 1983. Raised in suburban southern California, I had never seen snow falling from the sky, and of course had never experienced slip-sliding in my car or suddenly turning sideways on an icy road. That first winter, I spent the holidays at my mother's place on Puget Sound. My Aunt Marian gave me an interesting present for Christmas – a battery-powered lantern. “For the ice storms, when your power goes out,” she said. “Portland is famous for ice storms.”

True to her prediction, a severe ice storm started the day I left Mom's place for the 3-hour drive back to Portland. It took seven hours to get home! That week I experienced in quick succession: loss of heat (the gas meter froze up); loss of power (48 hours without electricity); and loss of water (the water main to the apartment complex broke). The discomfort and inconvenience contrasted starkly with the astonishing beauty of ice coating everything around me. I had never experienced anything like it. In less than three months in Portland, I had become a veteran Northwesterner. And I loved it!

As ill-prepared as I was for winter when I arrived in Portland, that was the season I loved the most. In the ensuing years, I learned to cross-country ski, cut my own Christmas trees from the local National Forests, learned about the amazing geology of the volcanic Cascade mountains, and never tired of the spicy scent of the west side fir and cedar forests. This landscape is truly home for my spirit.

I don't think I appreciated that fact until I left for the east coast in 1990. Every place on this amazing planet has its own beauty, but most of us feel that at-homeness in very few. I missed the northwest the entire time I was away. I believe that our connection to the place that calls us home is a fundamental part

“Every place on this amazing planet
has its own beauty . . .

of our spiritual life. That particular landscape is where we experience the reality of a more generalized “relationship with Earth”. And it's through that connection with the familiar landscape that we find the motivation and energy to keep working to prevent or heal the damage. Joanna Macy has a name for this work of the Great Turning. She calls it the “work that reconnects.” Part of the reconnecting must be with the land itself, as well as with all the beings that inhabit it.

Now that I've returned after 15 years in the east, I'm again feeling the excitement of impending winter. Last night I was wishing I had a few pieces of wood for the fireplace, though it's not a very effective way to heat my apartment. It's been over a decade, though, since Portland has had a real ice storm. I suppose I should be grateful that we seldom have to risk life and limb with an inch of solid ice on roads and sidewalks, while electric transformers explode all over town, and heating bills burden those among us living hand-to-mouth. Many must find it a relief that winters are less severe on this warming planet. Still, as we approach the winter solstice and darkness descends earlier each day, I look forward to the pleasure of at least an occasional walk in my neighborhood in freshly falling snow. I'm already enjoying the comforting smells of winter soups simmering on my stove, and looking forward to the December round of parties and gatherings with friends and family. I am rich indeed.

May you too find your connection with that special landscape, and may it strengthen your connections with all of this precious Earth.

Winter blessings, *Katherine* ♦

Global Warming: Changing CO2urse

by Martin Tull, National Outreach Coordinator, Northwest Earth Institute

Global warming, climate change, global heating, climate chaos...there are many ways that the issue of global warming is being discussed these days. But regardless of how we describe our changing climate, the most important aspect is that we are talking about it.

Debate is Over

The climate of our planet is an incredibly complex system, and while many climate predictions remain somewhat uncertain, the debate about whether or not global warming is occurring is generally over. As stated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, "There is new and stronger evidence that most of the warming observed over the last fifty years is attributable to human activities." But global warming is not just a scientific issue. It has been described as a moral issue, an economic issue, a social justice issue and even an intergenerational issue.

Statement of Conscience

At the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly this past summer, I listened as the delegates were discussing the issue of global warming and the language of the statement of conscience was finalized. The statement of conscience emerged with a strong majority of support and calls on individuals to address the serious and urgent nature of global warming.

"We are no longer passive victims of the climate system's slow oscillations; we are now, as a collective, atmospheric engineers." -Alan Atkisson

Time for Action

A time of action and response to the climate crisis is clearly upon us. For those of us who feel that we need to take immediate action, there are easy steps that we can take to reduce our carbon footprint. We can find out how much carbon we emit in our daily lives, we can take steps to reduce those emissions (see *Carbonfund.org* as a great example), and we can work to broaden awareness of this issue as well. But we can't do this alone. We need to reach outside the "choir" and bring others into the discussion.

Northwest Earth Institute Announces New Course

In an effort to provide a framework for exploring the issue of global warming and how it relates to our personal values and habits, the Northwest Earth Institute will launch our newest discussion course in February of 2007:

Global Warming: Changing CO2urse.

It is critical that we come together with others, read and learn more about the issue, and discuss how we can effectively respond to the situation. The discussion courses are not designed to bring us to a consensus viewpoint, but to give us a space in our week where we can gather with others and explore topics that matter to us. ♦

About the Course & NWEI

In addition to the newest course, six other discussion courses are available, including *Voluntary Simplicity*; *Globalization*; *Healthy Children and Sustainable Living*. Since 1993, over 70,000 people have participated in the discussion courses, with groups forming in all fifty states.

To find out more about *Global Warming: Changing CO2urse* or any of the other courses, please contact one of NWEI's national outreach coordinators, Martin Tull and Deborah McNamara at

503-227-2807

or email them directly at

martin@nwei.org

deborah@nwei.org

Florida Church Eco-Preserve Reaches Community

By David Parton, Director, Holton Eco-Preserve

Four years ago the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Myers established the Holton Eco-Preserve on 6.5 acres of their campus. This project emerged from our Green Sanctuary endeavors and we are currently preparing to offer nature experiences to children and their parents starting in November 2006.

The mission of the Holton Eco-Preserve is to help children and their parents love nature and live more lightly upon it. Our strategy is to serve as a local community resource that helps child and parent learn how to enjoy the abundant ecology experiences in Southwest Florida. Our philosophy is that a family must first find emotional joy with the earth before they can commit to live more lightly upon the earth.

Our plan starts with a workshop on 'The Parent as an Ecology Teacher' lead by the Education Coordinator of Lee County Parks and Recreation. Following the workshop the families will tour the Holton Eco-Preserve where we will invite them to participate in further nature exploration sessions that are designed to capture children's curiosity and nourish their emotional attachment to the earth. In addition, we will promote the exploration of other free nature activities at home and in the area, thereby promoting local agencies that have sympathetic missions.

We shall invite local churches to use our facilities and modify our programming to serve their theological position and ecological messages.

On Earth Day, 2006 twenty-four children joined



**Holton Eco-Preserve, Ft. Myers, Florida
Volunteers plant trees.**

in an Adopt-A-Tree program that required each child to sign an adoption certificate that read, "I promise to adopt this tree and be a good parent to this tree, to care for it, to visit it, to enjoy its beauty, and to give it a name that is special to me." Each child, often with some help, selected a tree and planted it in a meadow on the Holton Eco-Preserve. The adoption theme gives a follow-up rationale for a series of nature experiences that serve to increase each child's appreciation of nature. Currently we are exploring offering this program to the greater community in 2007 by collaborating with the local chapter of the Sierra Club and a local plant society.

**For further information visit our web site:
www.holtonecopreserve.net
or call the Preserve office at
(239) 561-2700. ♦**

Hope - Reverence - Inspiration

Need help getting started with your congregational Earth Ministry program?

To facilitate and support the work of Unitarian Universalists, UU Ministry for Earth publishes printed Resource books that provide curriculum, worship elements, and the guidelines for congregational certification as a Green Sanctuary. In addition, a new Resource, "Global Warming Action Kit" is also available on CD.

Order Resources online at: www.uuministryforearth.org

Proceeds support the work of UU Ministry for Earth

Green Sanctuary Program is HOT !

By Rev. Katherine Jesch, Director of Environmental Ministry and Green Sanctuary Program Coordinator

There's a lot of Green Sanctuary activity going on in congregations. This fall we have accepted 5 new Green Sanctuary candidates, bringing the total since GA to 14! We have also doubled the number of Green Sanctuary Manuals sold, compared to last year, so I'm predicting the pace will pick up even more by spring. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions about the process when you're working on the preliminary steps.

Workshops - Worship - Retreats

I've had an extensive travel schedule this fall. In October, I conducted a workshop and worship service in Corvallis, Oregon, before visiting the San Francisco Bay area for programs in San Rafael, Palo Alto, and Walnut Creek. I also led a day-long workshop in Sacramento for the Pacific Central District, sponsored by the UU Congregation in Marin. This month I've been in the New York Metro District for a weekend retreat on Ecofeminism, followed by an evening lecture in Wilmington, DE, on a Theology of Ecology. My calendar for winter and spring is almost full, but I still have some time available for travel in May, and may be able to fit in one more program in March or April. Contact me if you would like me to visit your congregation.

Conference Calls - Brainstorming

In addition to participating in formal Green Sanctuary workshops and presentation, I've been doing more in-depth consultation with individual committees who are trying to make progress but are finding challenges that seem to prevent moving forward. One common challenge is engaging the entire congregational membership in Green Sanctuary activities. Committees are finding that their members are active and enthusiastic, but they're having trouble getting participation from the rest of the congregation. It often helps just to talk through these problems and hear how other congregations have faced them. I've been looking for ways to help without actually having to travel to meet in-person. I'm finding that it sometimes can help if I join the committee in a conference call, or participate in a brainstorming session using a speaker phone. Let me know if this type of assistance might be useful to you.

Keeping Hope Alive

Green Sanctuary continues to be an exciting way for congregations to "walk the talk" when it comes to living our environmental values as a core part of our faith. Working with congregations in this process is one way I manage to "keep hope alive" for myself. I hope you're finding ways to keep your hope alive as well.

Earth Blessings to All! *Katherine*

Katherine.Jesch@uuministryforearth.org ♦

UU World Highlights Green Sanctuary Activity

UU World magazine highlighted four Green Sanctuary programs in the Winter, 2006 issue. The article titled, "UU congregations take on the environment," includes activities described by Green Sanctuary committee members Pamela Sparr, Washington, DC, Lisa Herschberger, Bloomington,

MN, Barry Peters, Bainbridge Island, WA, and Harold Wood, Visalia, CA.

In addition, the Rev. Katherine Jesch, UUMFE, discusses the dramatic growth in membership in the organization and Green Sanctuary activity in the past year. ♦

***Spotlight:* Model Regional Coordinator**

By Karen Urbano, UUMFE Board

Reena Kondo is the very model of a modern regional coordinator. She lives in New York City, is a member of Community Church of New York, and serves as the UU Ministry for Earth Regional Coordinator for the NY Metro District.

A retired high school biology teacher, as well as an artist, Reena has always had a passion for things environmental. So it was a perfect fit for her to become a Regional Coordinator.

Reena was already a leader in her congregation and district, having led women's groups, and a service around environmental issues at Community Church with her women's group. Then she attended General Assembly in Boston and discovered the Seventh Principle Project (now UUMFE). She couldn't wait to get back to her congregation in New York and start a Green Sanctuary committee. She soon had signed up 25 people!

When the call came for applications to join the new Regional Coordinator program of UUMFE, she signed on and attended a training. She has been enthusiastically fulfilling that role even since as a regional voice for UUMFE. She does outreach to congregations, serving as a source of information about UUMFE and the Green Sanctuary program. She meets with other "green" UUs through district workshops and events and speaks to individual congregations, including one sermon so far. An upcoming event she has organized for this November will be a NY Metro District Weekend Retreat on "Eco-Feminism", featuring UUMFE Director of Environmental Ministry, Rev. Katherine Jesch. Also in the planning stages is a Spring 2007 networking meeting of Green Sanctuary leaders throughout her district to enable them all to share triumphs and problems.

Back at her own congregation, Reena continues to be active in their Green Sanctuary committee with an ongoing voluntary simplicity group, vegetarian cooking classes and a developing wind energy program, as well as numerous programs on sustainability.

From congregational to district activities, Reena truly is a model as a modern Regional Coordinator.

For more information on how you can join the ranks of the RCs, please contact Rev. Katherine Jesch. You may be just the one who can follow Reena Kondo's model. ♦

Funding Program for Green Building

11-03-06 Sonja L. Cohen, Report on the October UUA Board of Trustees Meeting (go to www.uuworld.org and search for LEED)

Our association has taken action reflecting the General Assembly's Statement of Conscience. At its October meeting, the Board endorsed a resolution from the Congregational Properties and Loan Commission that promotes environmentally friendly building practices. Congregations seeking financial assistance from the CPLC will be strongly encouraged to follow the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green practice program administered by the United States Green Building Council during planning, design, construction, and final commissioning of their project.

The CPLC will establish a \$60,000 pilot program to encourage LEED certification. Cash grants of between \$5,000 and \$10,000 will go to as many as six congregations that complete a renovation or building project costing \$300,000 or more, depending on the level of LEED certification they are pursuing. The program will expire at the end of the four years or when \$60,000 has been awarded, whichever comes first, unless the CPLC votes to continue it.

In an effort to model this green behavior, the UUA's Boston buildings are being assessed for changes that would make them eligible for LEED certification. ♦

Book Review

When the Rivers Run Dry: Water – The Defining Crisis of the 21st Century by Fred Pearce

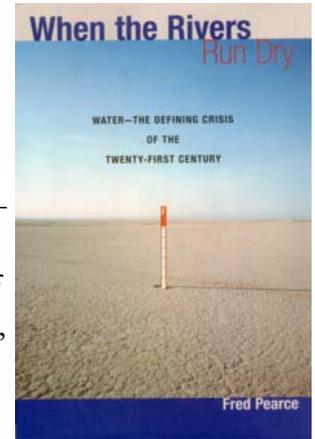
Reviewed by Robert Keim,
UUMFE Board Member

Getting the 2006 Statement of Conscience on Global Warming passed so resoundingly at General Assembly was a landmark moment – one that breathed life into our 7th Principle and called congregations and the UUA itself to action. And while it speaks directly to the issue of climate change, this multi-dimensional SOC is much about “environmental justice” – justice for our descendants, for the fish who swim the oceans, for the forests and their inhabitants, for all those who will be most affected by a warming Earth. And even more important, passage of this SOC was not an ending, but only a beginning.

At the same GA, the Director of Beacon Press, in her Annual Report, announced a number of new books being released by their house. Among these is one of timely relatedness: *When the Rivers Run Dry*, by Fred Pearce, or as it’s subtitled, *Water – The Defining Crisis of the 21st Century*.

Traveling to water-stressed areas around the world, Pearce recounts, in stark fidelity, a litany of resource debacles – from the \$27 billion dollar “Great Manmade River” in Libya to mass fluoride poisonings in India that may affect up to 60 million people to the Aral Sea, which is drying up at a rate twenty times the size of Manhattan every year. Then there’s the High Plains Ogallala Aquifer, one of the largest hydrologic systems in the United States, now being depleted eight times faster than nature can replenish it. The result is land subsidence and the disappearance of the water table, which has already fallen more than one hundred feet. It’s a list that goes on and on and on, around the world. And, as Pearce notes, future water demands will continue to be exacerbated by four factors not yet slowing under

control: population growth, environmental misuse, commercial consumption and pollution, and the effects of climate change. Meanwhile, nations have already threatened or gone to war with one another over water.



With so many social, political and environmental crises looming on the horizon, it can be challenging to maintain hope and focus, but it’s absolutely necessary that we do so. As Pearce writes, ***“We need to relearn some of the old lessons of sharing if we are to manage water better. We must realize that water has to be given back to nature. The environmental case for insuring ‘conservation flows’ in rivers and on wetlands is unanswerable. This is not an optional extra for ‘tree huggers.’”***

While response to the matter of climate change is the defining issue of our age, we won’t move very far without taking care of the waters that sustain us and the world in which we live. We could focus, as do our friends at UUSC, on the human right to water – a principle at times strained or downright abrogated. Or we might immerse ourselves in local work, such as Legislative Ministries is doing in the Sacramento Delta Area in California, or the Sierra Club in the Caloosahatchee River basin in Florida.

The point is that water flows through every life, and running out or excluding the thirsty poor are *not* options. The more aware and involved we are, the better able to meet the future we will be. Get a copy of *When the Rivers Run Dry*. Read it and get on board, before it’s too late. ♦

Joanna Macy: Spiritual Guidance for the Great Turning

By Barbara Ford, President, UUMFE

UU Ministry for Earth is bringing noted eco-philosopher **Joanna Macy** Ph.D. to Portland in June 2007 for the UUA General Assembly. Several opportunities to meet and listen to Ms. Macy are planned.

Author Explores New Paradigm

Ms. Macy is a scholar of Buddhism, general systems theory, and deep ecology. She is also a leading voice in movements for peace, justice, and a safe environment. Interweaving her scholarship and four decades of activism, she has created both a groundbreaking theoretical framework for a new paradigm of personal and social change, and a powerful workshop methodology for its application.

The many dimensions of this work are explored in her recent books *Rilke's Book of Hours* (1996, 2005) and *In Praise of Mortality* (2004) (with Anita Barrows, Riverhead); and *Coming Back to Life: Practices to Reconnect Our Lives, Our World* (with Molly Young Brown, New Society Publishers, 1998). Joanna has also written a memoir entitled *Widening Circles* (New Society, 2000).

Most recently she has introduced the concept of **The Great Turning**: a name for the essential adventure of our time. It is the shift from the Industrial Growth Society to a life-sustaining civilization. A revolution is underway because people are realizing that our needs can be met without destroying our world. Future generations, if there is a livable world for them, will look back at the epochal transition we are making to a life-sustaining society.

General Assembly Programs Planned

Among the opportunities to hear Ms. Macy at General Assembly 2007 will be a lecture presentation in one of the workshop slots at the Assembly. Additionally, she is tentatively scheduled to partici-



pate in a panel on The Great Turning with author David Korten and Portland UU minister the Rev. Dr. Marilyn Sewell.

A unique opportunity to learn more about her work will occur on the Monday after the General Assembly (June 25th), when she will conduct a day-long workshop entitled “**Awakening as Earth: Spiritual Practice for the Great Turning.**” The central purpose of these practices, called the “**Work that Reconnects,**” is to help people uncover and experience their innate connections with each other and with the systemic, self-healing powers in the web of life, so that they may be enlivened and motivated to play their part in creating a sustainable civilization.

Information about registration for the June 25th workshop will be available in early 2007.

**To learn more about Joanna Macy,
visit the website
www.joannamacy.net** ♦

In the Planning Stage: National Environmental Justice Conference

To mobilize UUs to address environmental justice issues more effectively in their congregations and communities and to continue to spur denominational change from the "bottom up", UUMFE plans an extraordinary, first-of-its-kind, national UU environmental justice conference and training. This event, during Winter 2007 or Spring 2008, will be planned to speak to and engage the whole person -- physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually.

Leadership and Vision

Under the leadership of UUMFE Program Director Rev. Katherine Jesch and Conference Planning Coordinator Pamela Sparr, a diverse leadership team has been selected. The team will have its first meeting December 15 to refine the goals of the conference and audience.

The broad vision of the conference is to deepen and broaden the national momentum that exists among individual UUs and UU congregations to embrace the Seventh Principle. In particular, the focus of this event is to galvanize and equip UUs to more effectively address environmental justice issues in their congregations and communities and to continue to spur change from the "bottom up" within our denomination.

Objectives of the Conference

Specific objectives include:

1. To promote a deeper awareness/understanding of the concept of "environmental justice" among UUs.
2. To provide an opportunity for significant theological reflection, so that grassroots UU leaders can discern and/or more easily articulate their faith-based values and vision of "environmental justice", as well as the spiritual/theological/religious basis of their position.
3. To strengthen the existing national network of UUs interested in promoting more active work on environmental justice at various levels (e.g., congregational, community, state, and district).
4. To enhance grassroots/regional UU leaders' skills to promote environmental justice.
5. To support grassroots leaders by providing the latest information and educational materials on key environmental justice issues, including those relevant campaigns and programs that are national priorities for the UUA, UUMFE, and UUSC.

Details will be released as they become available. ♦



Mark Your Calendars - GA and More June 20-24 + June 25th

Join UUMFE in Portland

for workshops, speakers, and awards,

plus the fantastic opportunity for an all-day workshop with renowned author Joanna Macy.

A trip to Portland, probably the greenest city in the greenest state, offers the opportunity to check out sustainability in practice. Attend the annual Green Sanctuary showcase - it's always inspiring to see how creative our congregations are! A special workshop is planned about food for the world ahead. Also, the Commission on Social Witness and UUMFE are planning a panel on Congregational Action Plans in response to Global Warming/Climate Change.

This GA is A MUST ATTEND. ♦

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Dear Members and Friends -

*The Board of Directors and the Staff
of UU Ministry for Earth
send you greetings
for this Holiday season
and the coming year.*

*May both be filled
with affirming connections
and renewed hope.*

Thank you for caring for the Earth.

Conservatree estimates that each ton of 100% post-consumer recycled paper that displaces a ton of virgin fiber paper saves: 7,000 gallons of water + 4,100 kw hours of electricity + 60 pounds of air pollution. This Newsletter is printed on 100% recycled-content paper.

This twice-annual Newsletter is a benefit of membership. If you have not already done so, please renew as soon as possible.