



Heartline OnLine

A bi-weekly publication of the Heartland District of the UUA serving 55 member congregations in Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan and Ohio

January 5, 2012

Volume 6, Issue 13

Dear Barbara,

Welcome to the New Year!

Time seems to be flying by so quickly that I almost don't believe that we're now past 2011, although I must admit I liked writing 1-2-12 earlier this week on my checks (though I didn't much like writing the checks!).

Over the holiday break, I had the occasion to listen to a presentation by someone who has studied the texting patterns of teenagers in the Boston/New England area. Many of these young people text 8,000-10,000 times a month-I sure hope they have unlimited plans! While that number is astounding to me, and it is really large, I also know that for teens, texting is a very easy, quick thing. With their knowledge of texting abbreviations (my knowledge begins and ends with LOL-laugh out loud), many of these are short, but still, 8,000 means over 250 texts a day!

It's a staggering number, but what was more intriguing to me was her assessment about this. She said "They are so busy communicating that they don't have time to connect."

I began wondering: how often do I, and do our congregations, spend the energy to communicate, but fail at connecting? Much of what we say is data sharing: *the services are at 10 this week, not 9:30; the potluck is on Friday, and those whose names begin with L-R bring the main dish; there's a congregational meeting on January 15th; it's your turn to take out the garbage.*

But it strikes me that much of what we really want is that connection - *to be seen, to be recognized, to be heard into existence*. I know I long for much more than that data sharing. I want to know that who I am matters, and that there's something I can do to make the world better, even if it's only the small part of the world that comes into my house. I believe this is also why people come to our congregations - *to connect with other people, with their own best selves, with their sense of transcendence or mystery and wonder*



Rev. Dr. Lisa Presley
District Executive

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[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

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Heartland District
Assembly
March 30-31, 2012
Lansing Community
College
Lansing, MI

So how are you doing? In the flurry of email you send every day, how much of it is connection? In the conversations at work, school, the world outside your doors, how much of it is connection? And in your home - *are you communicating or connecting?* I know I want to tip the balance in my life. Perhaps it's a New Year's Resolution, but I tend to view it as living more and more into the delight of human living.

Connect with you again, soon!

In faith,
Lisa

Faith Development

JusticeCON Happening!

Great news, our first MidAmerica regional youth conference will be happening on March 2-4, 2012 at the First UU Congregation of Ann Arbor, MI.

This unique experience will be focused on social justice, and, in particular, preparing youth and adult leaders to gear up for work around JusticeGA in Phoenix. No, it doesn't mean that to attend our JusticeCON that you must go to Phoenix this summer, but it does allow for folks to mobilize and get informed about all of the critically important actions that are evolving from this historic general assembly.



*Nancy Combs-Morgan
Faith Development Director*

We are asking for youth/adult teams to come from MidAmerica congregations, which includes Heartland, Prairie Star and Central Midwest districts. The youth/adult teams will find out how to mobilize in your local community for the **"National Day of Witness"** on June 23rd, where UUs across the nation are asked to **"Stand on the Side of Love"** for immigrants rights. The registration will be up shortly for JusticeCON, but we hope you will save the date!

In faith,
Nancy

Anne Miller Award for Excellence



The Heartland District Lifespan Religious Education Committee is now accepting nominations for the **Anne Miller Lifespan Religious Education Award** for the Heartland District of the UUA to honor significant contributions to lifespan religious education.

The Anne Miller Award for Excellence in Lifespan Religious Education is presented to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to religious education for children, youth and adults over the years. The Ohio Valley Unitarian Universalist District Lifespan Religious Education Committee originally established the



Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed

"Torn Between Fuzzy Aspirations and Hard Realities"....This year we are pleased and honored to present the Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed as our keynoter for our District Assembly March 30-31, 2012.

Click [HERE](#) for District Assembly details and to register

Midwest UU Leadership



Registration is open for these free online workshops. To participate all you need is high speed internet access and a separate phone line. Registration closes at 5:00 pm Central Time the day before each webinar.

Click [workshop title to learn more and register.](#)

[Board Responsibilities](#)

January 12, 2012
January 17, 2012

[Youth Advisor Series](#)

January 26, 2012
February 21, 2012
March 15, 2012

District Calendar

award in 1989. The Heartland District has carried on this tradition, giving the award at its District Assembly each spring.

Nomination deadline: February 1, 2012

[Learn more...](#)
[Nomination Form](#)

A UU Young Adult CON



Borderland/Commonlands

January 13-15, 2012

People's Church of Kalamazoo, MI

[Register/Learn more..](#)

Youth Events for the New Year



Create-A-CON

**Heartland District's Southern
Jr. High CON**

January 21-22, 2012

UU Church of Lexington, KY

[Learn more](#)

[Register](#)

CONfuzion

Heartland District's Northern Jr.
High CON

January 27-29, 2012

People's Church of Kalamazoo, MI

[Learn more](#)
[Register](#)



January 13-15, 2012
[Borderlands/Commonlands](#)
People's Church of
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Kalamazoo, MI

March 2-4, 2012
JusticeCON
First UU Congregation of
Ann Arbor, MI

March 30-31, 2012
District Assembly
Lansing Community College
Lansing, MI
[Registration now open!](#)

April 13-15, 2012
Jr High Election CON
Indianapolis, IN

May 2012
(dates TBA)
Sr High Bridging CON
Bloomfield Hills, MI

[MidWest UU Leadership
Webinars](#)

Congregational Bulletins

Heartland Congregational
Monthly Mailing
[October 2011](#)

UUA Congregational
Bulletin
[November 2011](#)
[December 2011](#)



Allies for Racial Equity

Colonization Privilege & Resistance: Preparing for Justice GA 2012

February 17-19, 2012

First Jefferson UU Church
Fort Worth, TX

[Flyer](#)
[Brochure](#)

2011-2012 District Directory

The 2011-2012 Heartland District Directory is now available online at the Heartland website.



To request the new password, contact Barbara Hamilton at office@heartlanduu.org.

Has your congregation recently installed new officers? If so, be sure to send an update to the District office and to myUUA.org

[District Congregation Update Form](#)

Certification Deadline Approaching!



Just a reminder (gentle, I hope!) that the annual deadline for Certification of your membership, religious education enrollment, budget numbers, attendance, and the congregational poll is coming up-you have until 5:00 p.m. on February 2nd!

Click [here](#) to complete the process!

ATTENTION! ***New Officers***

Have you elected new officers recently in your congregation?

Make updates NOW at:
my.UUA.org

Contact Us

Rev. Dr. Lisa Presley
District Executive
de@heartlanduu.org
Alternate email:
lpresley@uua.org

Nancy Combs-Morgan
Faith Development Director
ncombsmorgan@uua.org

Barbara Hamilton
District Administrator
office@heartlanduu.org

[More About Us](#)



Do you have news you want to share with UUs in the Heartland District? Send articles or announcements to office@heartlanduu.org

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Your comments and suggestions for the newsletter are always appreciated. Click on the link below to send us a message.

Barbara Hamilton
District Administrator
Newsletter Editor
office@heartlanduu.org

MUUSJN Receives UUA Grant

UUA AWARDS MUUSJN IMMIGRATION REFORM, PUBLIC WITNESS GRANT

The Michigan UU Social Justice Network (MUUSJN), a state-wide network of UU justice advocates and allies, was recently awarded three grants totaling \$9,700 from the Unitarian Universalist Funding Program to implement an "Engaging UUs for Immigration Reform and Public Witness" project. The \$2,500 challenge grant will allow donations to the Network to be matched with UUA funds over the next year. It also includes a \$2,000 fund raising technical assistance grant.

Activities under the grant include:

- Develop a database of UU activists who agree to respond to immigration issues;
- Encourage UUs, particularly youth, to attend the 2012 Justice GA;
- Host one or more discussions of Justice GA follow-up actions;
- Create opportunities for UUs to attend immigration reform training/workshops;
- Coordinate with other immigration reform organizations on campaigns;
- Develop and implement a plan for MUUSJN to become a non-profit organization; and
- Provide information UUs need to publicly witness their values on a range of issues.

Congregations are invited to become members of MUUSJN. Their \$100 dues can also be paid by sharing a plate collection on behalf of the Network. Individual dues start at \$25, or \$40 for a family. For more information go to: www.uujustice.org or contact Randy Block, MUUSJN Director, at 248-549-5170.

Leadership Training Southern Style

The Southern Regional Leadership planning team invites Heartland District congregational leadership to a taste of leadership training southern style when it is most appreciated - February in warm, sunny, Orlando Florida.

[Learn more...](#)

Peter Kandis pkandis@gmail.com
Dean, Southern Unitarian Universalist Leadership Experience



Heartland District of the
Unitarian Universalist
Association of Congregations

Heartline OnLine

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January 19, 2012

Volume 6, Issue 14

Dear Jennifer,

Thank You Messages Abound

We all know that the weather has been decidedly strange this past year, with massive storms, fluke happenings, and weather that just won't behave. But the great part of this is that Unitarian Universalists have shown that neither rain nor sleet nor snow nor dark of night will stop them from helping out when help is needed.



Rev. Dr. Lisa Presley
District Executive

Two districts have recently issued updates through on-line communities, one from Mid-South and another from Mass Bay/Clara Barton.

This word from Mid-South:

A deep felt thank you from Mid-South District. It has been a hard and long road towards recovery from the tornadoes that ripped through Alabama on April 27th. 2011 is a year that many are longing to have well behind them. But one thing they will not too quickly forget is the support their fellow Unitarian Universalists offered them during this time. Your generosity added up to over \$88,000.00 and helped us know we were not alone in recovering from the devastation of these tornadoes. All the money has been given to many families who lost most of what they owned and in a couple of cases all of what they owned. Again, thank you all so much.

Word from the Mass Bay/Clara Barton region is that your **giving in the wake of fierce winds** there helped one of our congregations restore its steeple and provided much needed and appreciated assistance to two families who lost everything.

It is marvelous how you/we rise to such occasions, and I am very grateful to be working and making my spiritual home in a body of people who care so deeply for their companions. I hope we're as generous to those we don't call "ours," too, but knowing UUs, I'm sure that's the case.

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Thank you, then, from those of us here in the Heartland District Office-we so appreciate all that you do, for those in your midst, those across the continent, and those around the world. This witness of your generosity is wonderful to behold.

Let me end with this quote from activist Dorothy Day:

*People say, what is the sense of our small effort.
They cannot see that we must lay one brick at a time, take one
step at a time.*

*A pebble cast into a pond causes ripples that spread in all
directions. Each one of our thoughts, words, and deeds is like that.
No one has a right to sit down and feel hopeless.
There's too much work to do.*

In faith,
Lisa

Faith Development

For All That Is Our Life....

That headline may resonate with you as the title of one of my favorite hymns, (#128, Singing the Living Tradition), with the next stanza going on to express, *"we sing our thanks and praise, for all life is a gift which we are called to use."*

The hymn beautifully expresses one of the deepest core messages of Unitarian Universalism, which is that we are called to "use" our talents, resources, and commitment for a greater good.

With that in mind I want to lift up the unique experience coming up...**JusticeCON**. On March 2-4, 2012 at the First UU Congregation of Ann Arbor, MI, the first regional youth and adult conference to mobilize UUs in the MidAmerica region to the call of service and justice will be happening. This will be a very different kind of social justice youth conference, for the hope is that TEAMS of youth and adults will be attending together so that they can go back to their home congregation and help to motivate and mobilize their congregations to **"Stand on the Side of Love."**

With JusticeGA (our next General Assembly in Phoenix, AZ) on the immediate horizon, we wanted to make sure that congregations across the country were being responsive to the critical issues around immigration reform. One theme will be on immigration reform, but there will be a host of other issues which the teams will receive great resources for reflection and multigenerational action. Please have a look at the [JusticeCON link](#). You will note that we have a bit more to the registration process, and if folks have any questions, please feel free to contact me at ncombsmorgan@uua.org, or call my cell phone at (859) 494-2424.

We really hope to see you there!



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[Youth Advisor Series](#)

January 26, 2012
February 21, 2012
March 15, 2012

District Calendar



Giving grateful praise and thanks,
Nancy

Charlotte Cowtan Award



The Heartland District Board of Trustee is now accepting applications for the Charlotte Cowtan Award.

This award recognizes a congregation in Heartland District for the work they have done to promote Unitarian Universalism in their community, in the District and through out the world. This award was named in

honor of our first District Executive.

This award is open to all the District's congregations, no matter the size. This award will be given to the winning congregation at our annual meeting, March 30 & 31, 2012 in Lansing, Michigan.

Please return your application to the District office by February 10, 2012.

If there any questions, please contact Board Member, Rae Jane Araujo, at raejane.araujo@flaktwoods.com, or call her at (513) 638-5746.

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my.UUA.org

*Don't forget your
congregation's name in the*



MidWest Leadership School 2012

Save the Dates!
July 15 - 21, 2012

Unitarian Universalist Association of
Congregations
MidWest Leadership School

MidWest Leadership School (MWLS), a part of the Unitarian Universalist Association's nationwide network of leadership schools, will be held July 15 - 21, 2012 (Sunday thru Saturday), on the campus of Beloit College in southeastern Wisconsin. MidWest Leadership School is sponsored by the Central MidWest District, in collaboration with Heartland District and Prairie Star District of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations.

[Get details...](#)

Certification Deadline LOOMS!



Those who are regular readers to our newsletter will remember that January is nudge month! All congregations need to report your membership numbers (along with other pertinent data) to the UUA no later than February 1st at 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time! This allows you the right to vote at General Assembly, and sets the Fair Share giving rate for your congregation.

Get all the details by checking out the UUA website [certification central!](#)

New Workshop for District Assembly



Once again, the workshop entries for next year's District Assembly are outstanding. We have one more to add to make your selection process even more difficult.

Building Community Through Chalice Circles

is being offered by Sally Hattig and Catherine Olson of First UU Congregation of Ann Arbor in Michigan. Go to the [Heartland website](#) to learn more.

District Directory. Click on the link below to find our directory update form and to see how your congregation page appears in the 2012 Heartland District Directory. Contact office@heartlanduuu.org to get new password for directory.

[Make updates & upload District Directory](#)

Contact Us

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District Administrator Update

I debated whether or not to say anything, but so many people have sent emails wishing me a quick recovery from my most recent carpal tunnel surgery to my left hand that I felt a quick update was needed.

As it turned out, I didn't have the surgery in December as planned. A persistent bout of the flu in the days before the surgery caused me to rethink the wisdom of undergoing anesthesia while suffering a hacking cough.

So to all of you wishing me well, thank you. I hope you all know how wonderful I think you are. We'll soon be into gardening season - can't wait to see those tender new sprouts peeking through the dirt - so the next surgery will have to wait until next Fall.

In the meantime, my ten digits are working just fine and Aleve works its magic when they aren't.

I look forward to seeing you all again at District Assembly in March.

Barbara Hamilton
District Administrator

Around the District

UU's Plan Local Immigration Program March 3, 2012

With the help of a generous grant from the UUA Funding Office's Fund for Social Responsibility, the UU Council of Greater Cincinnati (UUCGC), comprising six UU congregations, is planning a major conference on Immigration Issues.

Phoenix UU minister Reverend Susan Frederick-Gray will be the keynote speaker, presenting information about developments nationally and especially in Arizona, which have been at the forefront of the national immigration debate. The US Supreme Court has announced that it will hear appeals related to the Arizona Immigration law in April.

[Read full article...](#)

Why We Love Dogs, Eat Pigs, and Wear Cows An Introduction to Carnism April 15, 2012

Dr. Melanie Joy, a longtime activist for social and environmental justice and animal welfare, explains carnism, the invisible belief system that shapes our perception of the meat we eat.

By illuminating carnism, Dr. Joy helps us become more empowered citizens and more active social witnesses.

Parental/guardian discretion is advised for younger attendees.

[Learn more...](#)

Our Place in the Web of Life



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
MINISTRY FOR EARTH

Respect Life. Restore Earth. Renew Spirit

Environmental Justice Curriculum, Module One
Thursday, January 12, 2012 (7:15 pm EST)
or Monday, February 6, 2012 (7:00 pm EST)

Are you looking for a way to find effective focus for your environment and justice work?

Are you feeling overwhelmed by the number and scope of messages about opportunities for personal group energies and talents to address?

Do the information and news channels send messages of opportunities that seem too numerous or too big for our personal and group energies and talents to address?

Do you need help in leading congregational environment and justice work?

[Learn more...](#)

[Registration now open - Facilitation Coaching Webinars](#)