

March 2003

Dear Colleagues,

It is time once again to plan for Professional Days and General Assembly, being held this year in Boston, Massachusetts. Please accept this invitation to come spend time with colleagues and friends in a city rich in Unitarian Universalist history.

In this packet you will find the registration form, the preliminary schedule of events, biographical information about our guest speakers, and workshop listings.

We expect a large turnout for Professional Days and GA, and will do our best to accommodate you. Please register as soon as possible; everyone benefits when we know how many people to expect. **The deadline for early registration is May 21.** There are financial incentives for early registration. You may register by filling out the enclosed form and mailing it, along with your payment, to the UUMA office in Boston. You may also register online using a credit card; go to www.uuma.org

The cost of having our meetings in Boston is substantially higher than other cities. This is reflected in the higher Professional Days registration fees. Educational Funds are available from UUMA to cover thirty Professional Days registration fees. To request these funds, contact Roberta Nelson (vicepresident@uuma.org) Preference will be given to those who have not been able to attend Professional Days in recent years. The deadline is April 3rd with no exceptions. Criteria for distributing these funds are financial need, the last Professional Days attendance and first come, first served.

All Professional Days activities will take place at the Boston Sheraton Hotel. Reservations may be made on the housing forms in your General Assembly mailing. Please also note that childcare is available through the GA office.

Partners and Spouses are most welcome at program events, meals, and for UUMPS meetings. We ask that you register your Partner or Spouse so we can plan appropriately. Please note the special registration fees for them.

The Singers of the Living Tradition, the choir for the 25/50 Year Worship service (Thursday) and the Service of the Living Tradition (Sunday), will be meeting and rehearsing during Professional Days. All are welcome to join this choir; please see enclosed flyer for further details.

The Executive Committee of the UU Ministers Association extends a special invitation to all students preparing for Unitarian Universalist ministry to join the Exec for continental breakfast from 8 to 9 a.m. on Friday, June 27. Please RSVP to Peter Boullata administrator@uuma.org by June 1st so we can prepare sufficient food and space.

You may be wondering:

Is there a dance? This year, the Wednesday evening program features the Rusty Scott Quartet. They were voted Best New Jazz Artist at last year's Boston Music Awards. There will be a dance floor available, and small tables set up for a coffee house/club-like atmosphere.

What happened to the banquet? Due to the high cost of a Thursday noon seated meal, and feedback about the impersonal nature of large banquet tables, we have not planned a banquet this year. Instead, we offer two alternatives for your convenience. One will be a box lunch, at our cost, with food different from that served on Wednesday. The other choice, again at our cost, is a buffet with various stations serving hot entrees, salads and soup. As you make your choice to socialize with colleagues on-site or venture out to city restaurants, keep in mind not only costs but also timing, so you don't miss out on our afternoon programming. As usual, on-site sign-up for food is not possible.

Can I come just for Richardson and the Berry Street Essay? That depends on the number of people who register for the Professional Days Conference. Some additional spaces for these events MAY be available after on-site registration closes. Guest passes will be sold, subject to availability, on Thursday, from 7:15-8 AM and from noon until 12:30 PM.

Couldn't you arrange for less expensive housing for Professional Days? I tried. I was not able to do so.

Can you tell me about parking near the hotel? For registered Sheraton guests daily rates are \$31. (self park), \$33. (valet). Parking is less expensive in a public lot across the street.

I hope you'll be able to join colleagues for bountiful days of programming, worship and socializing.

Sincerely,

Wendy Fish
Arrangements Portfolio
UUMA Executive Committee
Arrangements@UUMA.ORG

LREDA/UUMA Professional Days 2003
Tuesday June 24 – Thursday June 26, 2003
Sheraton Hotel, Boston, Massachusetts

Preliminary Schedule

TUESDAY, JUNE 24

4:00—8:00pm Registration for Professional Days, Sheraton Second Floor
8:00—9:30pm Task Force on Categories
8:00—10:00pm Reception

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

7:15am Continental Breakfast
8:00am Registration continues
8:30am Worship Service
9am "Building the Vocal Community" with Ysaye Maria Barnwell
12noon Box lunches
1:30pm—2:45pm Workshops A
2:45pm—3:00pm Break
3:00pm—4:15pm Workshops B
4:30pm Closing Worship
5:00pm Conversation with Bill Sinkford
6:00pm – 7:00 PM Singers of the Living Tradition rehearsal
6:00pm—8:30pm Dinner on your own
9:00pm—11:00pm "Rusty Scott Quartet"

THURSDAY, JUNE 26

7:15am Continental Breakfast
8:00am Worship Service 25/50 Year Honorees
9:30am—12noon UUMA Annual Meeting
9:30am—12noon LREDA Professional Interest Groups
9:30am—12noon UUMPS Annual Meeting
9:00am—3:00pm LREDA Good Offices Training
12noon Lunch options, see Registration Form
1:30pm "Emerson and the Perennial Philosophy," Robert D. Richardson presenter
3:30pm Ministerial Conference at Berry Street, Lecture by Laurel Hallman
4:30pm Closing of Professional Days

CENTER DAY June 25, 2003

Building the Vocal Community

Presented by
Ysaye Maria Barnwell, PhD

One of the strengths of African-American choral and congregational singing is its ability to create a powerful community bond through sound. This program provides an opportunity to witness and participate in such a community with **Dr. Ysaye Maria Barnwell**, a composer and vocalist who has performed with the internationally acclaimed a capella quintet Sweet Honey In The Rock since 1979. Through participatory singing—calls, chants, spirituals, ring shouts, hymns, gospel songs, and songs of resistance—we will explore how the music responds to, and continues to be shaped by, its historical and cultural context, its spiritual traditions, political and social struggle, and how it is grounded in an African-American worldview. Among the goals of this program are to explore the ways in which leadership emerges and can be shared, and to personally experience the centrality of community. Such an experience can enrich our personal lives, our congregations, and our communities.

Dr. Barnwell is a native of New York, and currently lives in Washington, DC. She is a vocalist with a range of over three octaves, and appears on more than twenty-five recordings with Sweet Honey In The Rock as well as with other artists. In her first year with Sweet Honey In The Rock, she provided leadership in making the group's concerts accessible to the deaf and hard-of-hearing through sign language interpretation.

The daughter of a violinist, Dr. Barnwell began her fifteen-year study of the violin with her father at the age of two and a half. After coming to Washington, DC, she founded, and for three years directed, the All Souls Jubilee Singers (at All Souls Church, Unitarian) where she began composing and arranging music for vocal ensembles. She composed and arranged music for many recordings, and has worked as a commissioned composer on numerous and varied projects, all of which are outgrowths of her combined understanding of creative arts inextricably bound to society. For more than twenty years, Dr. Barnwell has conducted workshops throughout the United States, Canada, Great Britain, and Australia, integrating African and African-American history, values, cultural and vocal traditions, to work with singers and non-singers alike. She holds Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Speech Pathology, a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Cranio-Facial Studies, a Master of Science degree in Public Health, and an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters.

CENTER DAY Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Session A Workshops: 1:30 -2:45 p.m.

Session B Workshops: 3:00 - 4:15 p.m.

Session A Workshops: 1:30-2:45 p.m.

1) A - Further "Building the Vocal Community"

An opportunity for those who attended the C.E.N.T.E.R. Day presentation with Ysaye Barnwell to move into greater depth of understanding. More through dialogue than singing, we will explore the historical, cultural, spiritual, and political context of African American choral and congregational music.

2) A - UUMPS-Unitarian Universalist Ministers Partners and Spouses

Facilitator: Mark Gibbons. Meet, greet, and share concerns with other Unitarian Universalist Ministers Partners and Spouses. Limited to partners and spouses. *Continues through Session B.*

3) A - "Understanding Whiteness: Skills for Transformational Spiritual Leadership"

Sponsored by Ministerial Sisterhood UU. This workshop offers a systemic analysis of the ways in which "whiteness" and racism function in our lives and in our congregations and communities, and emphasizes how "whiteness" can prevent European American ministers from exercising transformational spiritual leadership in their contexts. The presenters: Marian "Meck" Groot and members of the Women's Theological Center in Boston, which has been doing consultations with and for women for whom antiracism is a life commitment. *Continues through Session B.*

4) A - Reverend Mothers

An opportunity to meet other women and men working to combine ministry and parenthood. *Continues through Session B.*

5) A - "How Do We Agitate with Love?"

Workshop Leaders: Sam Trumbore, Terasa Cooley. Part of ministry is afflicting the comfortable, challenging systemic injustice and motivating people to action and involvement. How do we do this

effectively with love rather than guilt, manipulation, and intimidation? *Continues through Session B.*

6) A - "Categories/Tracks"

The Rev. Dr. Roberta Nelson offers an opportunity to examine the various categories of ministry as they stand and how they might evolve. *Continues through Session B.*

7) A - "How Are Ministers Doing the Work of Anti-Oppression, Anti-Racism, and Multi-Culturalism?" Facilitated by the Committee on Ministry for Anti-oppression, Anti-racism, and Multiculturalism of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association. *Continues through Session B.*

8) A - "Productive and Creative Models for Team Staffing"

A look at a variety of models used by colleagues across the continent that are proving effective and productive. Hear from staff team members (Ministers/Religious Educators/Administrators, etc.). Look at creative new takes on well-known approaches (such as the Carver model). Rev. Makaanah Morriss and Andrea Lerner, DRE.

9) A - Options for Community Ministers: Roger Brewin

10) A - "What Is the Center of Our Faith?"

The Commission on Appraisal is examining whether Unitarian Universalism has a core, is a faith, and how that has an impact on what we do in our congregations. Discussion with Linda Weaver Horton and other CoA members.

11) A - "The Spirit Moves The Body"

Facilitated by the Rev. Lena Breen. Embrace the realms of mind and spirit! Gratitude fills us as we slowly and carefully, with full concentration, move through a sequence of breathing, moving, and relaxing. Experience yoga for the first time or renew your practice with this experiential workshop. Absolutely everyone can participate.

12) A - "Ministry to Adults With Aging Parents"

A fact of extended family life, and a powerful opportunity for ministry. Mike Morran will present an overview of the complex spiritual, emotional, family, legal, and ethical issues facing adult children as their parents become elderly, and practical tools for ministry, support, and outreach to individuals and families.

13) A - "Soul Work: Anti-Racist Theologies in Dialogue"

Is the title of a new book that offers a wide range of perspectives, chock full of sermon data, and is a resource for adult religious education as well. Join co-editors, Marjorie Bowens-Wheatley and Nancy Palmer Jones, along with authors and contributors to the volume.

14) A - "The Religious Education Credentialing Program"
Revs. David Hubner and Beth Williams. Everything a minister should know about this new process.

15) A - "What Lies at the Heart of Your Call to Ministry and Professional Leadership?"
The Revs. Dr. Michelle Bentley and Beth Williams.

16) A - "Understanding Systems"
The Rev. Kenn Hurto, longtime student of Rabbi Edwin Friedman, offers insights into congregations as human systems, their foibles and quirks, as well as strategies for positive change.

17) A - "Honor Thy Identity!"
What do we mean when we say "self-identity?" And, why is it important to honor? In this interactive workshop, the Rev. Marta Valentín and seminarian Mr. Barb Greve will attempt to answer these questions and more, drawing on personal, professional and collective experiences. Co-sponsored by C.E.N.T.E.R. and Identity Based Ministries.

Session B Workshops: 3:00-4:15 p.m.

B - "Building the Vocal Community with Children and Youth"
C.E.N.T.E.R. Presenter Ysaye Barnwell will respond to your questions about how African American choral and congregational music can come alive for children and youth – whether in worship, in religious education, or other settings. Bring your questions and ideas to share. Jointly sponsored by LREDA.

2) B - UUMPS-Unitarian Universalist Ministers Partners and Spouses

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8) B - “Strengthening Families”

Today's diverse UU families face many cultural stresses and internal challenges – from time and money issues to divorce and addiction. How do we minister to families? How does your congregation support, educate, advocate and celebrate them? Join Pat Hoertdoerfer (Family Matters Task Force co-chairperson) and Bill Doherty (UU author of *Putting Family First*) in a conversation about reclaiming family life and deepening family faith.

9) B - “Choosing a Shape for the Vessel: Addressing Conflicts Over Worship Styles”

Given that UUs have no set liturgy, we can bring astounding ferocity to the issue of how exactly worship should look – and feel. Marlin Lavanhar, Janne Eller-Isaacs and Greg Stewart bring their experience, insight, and expertise to bear in a panel discussion on how we work with conflicts arising from differing congregational expectations of worship.

10) B - “Media Skills in Public Ministry”

Effective public ministry can help the fight for social justice and attract new members to our congregations. This workshop demystifies what reporters do and why, and provides basic skills for ministers to take control of interviews, minimizing misquotes and enhancing the impact of news coverage. Helio Fred Garcia, Public Witness Advisor to the UUA.

11) B - “Trauma Response: Congregational Methods and Modes”

Examine the application of crisis response methodology to congregational life, define trauma and responses from ministers and congregations, and focus on how to deal with traumas within congregations. Also, consider how congregations might appropriately respond to disasters in their own communities and offer practical skills to use when trauma hits (e.g. How to deliver a death notification). Aaron Payson, Worcester; Susan Suchocki Brown; Shayna Appel, and members of the newly formed UU Trauma Response Team.

12) B – For Ministers Entering Search: the Rev. John Weston

13) B – “Closing the Book”

Incorporating Singing The Living Tradition into your weekly worship. A presentation of several different hymns from the book, encouraging leaders to make these songs such a part of their weekly worship that using the hymnbook is not necessary, including gospel and world songs. This workshop will be encouraging the idea of movement in music as well.

14) B – “Ministry and Money”

Facilitated by the Rev. Dan Hotchkiss. Too often, ministers are tongue-tied about money. We have little to say to people about it but "You should give some of it to us." Dan Hotchkiss, Alban Institute author and senior consultant will offer a fresh perspective on the relationship of ministry and money.

15) B – “OK, Now What?”

Continuing education needs (for the mind, body, and soul) for ministers at mid-career. Rev. Craig Roshaven and Rev. Dr. Michelle Bentley, facilitators.

16) B – “Small Group Ministry”

Facilitators: the Rev. Robert L. Hill, DE for the Southwest District, plus practitioners of small-group arts. Although ministry through small-group organization can be traced back to the start of Christianity and has had remarkable success for evangelical Christians for decades, modern Covenant Group or Small Group Ministry in Unitarian Universalism dates back to an observation made by Dana McLean Greeley and put into practice in Brewster, MA, by the Rev. James Robinson in 1982. The groundswell of interest in the last five years produced some new successes and revealed a few problems, even a critic or two.

17) B – “Mentor Training”

The Rev. Lena Breen and the Rev. Dr. Gretchen Woods. Are you supervising a student minister or mentoring a newly minted minister? Would you like some insight into their needs and stages of development? This is the workshop for you.

18) B - "Worship: A Way of Life"

Facilitated by Yielbonzie Charles Johnson. "A borrowed fiddle will not finish the tune." "Let one who would do something completely original, swallow their own head." A consideration of relevant metaphors and proverbs for those who love worship and wish to enhance their gifts as worship leader. Please begin and bring a "worship journal" containing reflections on "what is seen;" "what is said;" and "what is done;" during actual worship services. If you do not participate in worship services please choose the next best thing.

Thursday June 26, 2003

"Emerson and the Perennial Philosophy"

Presentation by

Robert D. Richardson, Jr., PhD

Author of "Emerson: The Mind On Fire"

This year we celebrate the bicentennial of Ralph Waldo Emerson's birth. A descendent of ministers and once a Unitarian minister himself, Emerson shook the foundation of established religion. When he delivered his celebrated address at the Harvard Divinity School and admonished the graduates to "go alone; to refuse the good models, and dare to love God without mediator or veil," it was his last "face-off" with organized religion. Even though he chose to follow his own self-reliant path, Emerson remained deeply religious throughout his life, with a thoroughly spiritual view of human life and the world. Moreover, during his lifetime and in the years since his death in 1882 he has exerted a profound influence on liberal theology and enriched the spiritual lives of generations of Unitarian Universalists.

Robert D. Richardson, Jr. currently lives in North Carolina, having taught at the University of Denver and Wesleyan University. He is a Unitarian Universalist with longstanding ties to our movement and the son of a Unitarian Universalist minister who served in Concord, MA. He is author of the prize-winning biography, *Emerson: The Mind on Fire*, which has been hailed as "the definitive biography" and the "most credible portrait of a . . . fully human Emerson." He has also written *Henry David Thoreau: A Life of the Mind*, winner of the Melcher Book Award, and *Myth and Literature in the American Renaissance*. He is currently working on a biography of William James.