

# CATALYST

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM MULTICULTURAL GROWTH REGARDING RACIAL AND ETHNIC CONCERNS

*Engaged in recognizing and “re-storying” ourselves for a multicultural Unitarian Universalist future*

### Headline News:

Greetings and Happy September! Our office has had a busy summer—between the bustle of General Assembly; standing on the side of love with immigrant families across the country in protest of Arizona’s SB 1070 and other similar initiatives; applauding the results of the Proposition 8 trial in California; and the many transitions of our own office and many others at the UUA, we’ve hit the ground running as a new staff group. We’re energized and looking forward to the new congregational year!

*Photo by Lauren Mercier*



One highlight from this summer’s activities: Fourteen youth and young adults of color and four adult trainers came together on August 13-17 in Boston for a leadership conference organized by **Rev. Dr. Monica Cummings**, Program Associate for Ministry to Youth and Young Adults of Color.

Participants learned community-building techniques, engaged with identity development materials, heard oral histories, and acquired leadership skills that they will take back to their communities. These young leaders met with UUA President **Rev. Peter Morales**, **Rev. Sarah Lammert**, the new Director of Ministries and Faith Development, and **Gini Courter**, Moderator of the UUA.

In addition to Monica Cummings, trainers included **Janice Marie Johnson**, Multicultural Growth Director, **Jessica York**, Youth Resources Director, and **Laura Spencer**, Mosaic Project Report author and consultant. All who were present agreed that it was a very successful training, and the organizers hope to offer similar opportunities in the future.

Generations of activists have come to the **Highlander Research and Education Center** to learn, teach, and prepare to participate in struggles for justice. **Janice Marie Johnson** recently spent a few days there focused on post-event organizing for UUs; we look forward to partnering with them in the future.

### News from the Diversity of Ministry Initiative:

The Retreat for UU Professionals of Color will take place in March of 2011, in the Greater Washington, DC area. The dates will be either March 16–19 or March 23–26. Please encourage UU professionals of color colleagues to attend! Thanks to all who contributed to the fruits of the past Association Sunday campaign, we are grateful to be able to host this important spring gathering with very little cost to participants.

### News from the Diversity of Ministry Team:

We welcome our newest members, the Reverends Sarah Lammert, Abhi Janamanchi, and Josh Pawelek. We recently bid farewell to the Reverends John Weston, Leslie Takahashi-Morris, and Parisa Parsa. We are grateful for their service.

## Upcoming Events:

Two very special events are taking place on September 26, 2010! Congratulations are in order!

**Rev. Lilia Cuervo** will be installed as Associate Minister at **First Parish in Cambridge, MA**. UUA President **Rev. Peter Morales** will preach the installation sermon, and **Janice Marie Johnson** will deliver the charge to the congregation.

**Pamela Wat** will be ordained by the **Pathways UU Church** in Southlake, Texas. **Rev. Sofia Betancourt** will preach. Congregational participants will be Community UU Church of Plano, TX (Pamela's internship church) and Denton UU Fellowship in Denton, TX (where she will serve as Consulting Minister in 2010-2011).

## Building the World We Dream About (BtWWDA):

The **UUA Florida District Racial Justice Council** is presenting Building the World We Dream About. **Rev. Alicia R. Forde**, Program Coordinator for Multicultural Congregations, will serve as facilitator.

Have you considered offering local congregations an opportunity for potential BtWWDA facilitators to explore how they might facilitate and implement the program in their congregations? Have you considered conversations about congregational readiness? Have you begun to develop a network of support? If so, please consider organizing a training event. We will work with you to tailor the training to your specific needs. For more information, please contact Janice Marie Johnson, [jmjohnson@uaa.org](mailto:jmjohnson@uaa.org).

## Updates from Constituent Organizations:

### DRUUMM

Diverse and Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries has elected its new steering committee: Co-Presidents, Rev. Clyde Grubbs and Rev. Leslie Takahashi Morris; Vice Presidents: Esther Rosado and Jacqui Williams; Secretary, Walter LeFlore; Treasurer, Rev. Kathleen McGregor; and Membership Coordinator, James Coomes. In addition, the Asian/Pacific Islander Caucus (A/PIC) has re-elected as its President, David Yamashita.

## Exciting New Resources:

We are delighted to announce the first **UUA Common Read** program, which was developed collaboratively by many staff members. *The Death of Josseline: Immigration Stories from the Arizona-Mexico Borderlands* by Margaret Regan (Beacon Press, 2010) presents a series of intimate stories from the Arizona-Mexico border—stories of immigrants, activists, human rights workers, and border patrol people. Through stories, the book explores the ethical, moral, and spiritual challenges presented by the complex immigration issues on the border, evoking a human and religious response, rather than a political or policy debate. For more information, visit <http://www.uaa.org/publications/commonread/josseline/index.shtml>.

*Dream with us. Strategize with us. Build community with us. Support us...Join us in this holy work.*

Living our faith,



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