

CATALYST

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MULTICULTURAL GROWTH REGARDING RACIAL AND ETHNIC CONCERNS

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

Update from Our Office:

photo courtesy Janice Marie Johnson



We hosted a **Multicultural Thanksgiving Dinner Gathering for Staff of Color** on November 14. It was a wonderful time of camaraderie, community-building, story-telling, breaking bread, and thanksgiving, and we hope to hold more such gatherings in the future. We are grateful to UUA leadership—especially **Harlan Limpert**, **Kay Montgomery**, and **Robert Molla**—for fully supporting this effort. We created sacred space which offered much-needed renewal and replenishment in the ongoing commitment of people of color to working within the UUA to help create the multicultural Unitarian Universalism we dream about.

Updates from the Diversity of Ministry Initiative:

Are you familiar with the **UU Seminarians of Color** group? This group serves as a networking and support opportunity for seminarians who identify as African, Caribbean, Native/American Indian, Asian and Pacific Islander, Latina/o and Hispanic, Middle Eastern/Arab, Multiracial and Multiethnic Unitarian Universalists.

Angela Henderson and **Walter LeFlore** are in their second year of service as co-facilitators of this group. Walter recently completed seminary at Andover Newton Theological School. He serves on the Small Group Ministry Board and on the DRUUMM Executive Committee. Angela is serving the **Pacific Unitarian Church** in Rancho Palos Verdes as full-time intern minister for this congregational year.

During the group’s monthly conference calls, members check-in with the community, and highlight joys/concerns, prayers, and praises in an intentional space of love for one another through hospitality and grace. They also invite mentors, leaders, and theologians to share their insights, guidance, and direction as they meet the challenges of their journeys. These seminarians also gather in person at events such as “Finding Our Way Home,” the annual professionals of color retreat; UU General Assembly, DRUUMM (Diverse Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries) Retreats, and LREDA’s annual Fall Conference. Offering collegial community to counter a history of oppression, the UU Seminarians of Color group does great work!

Recent Events:

The **Metro New York** district, as well as the Metro NY Chapters of the UUMA and LREDA, cosponsored an exciting Religious Professional Day on November 9. Participants gathered at **Middle Collegiate Church** for a full day of programming entitled “For the Healing of the Nations: Transforming Hearts and Minds for a Multiracial and Just Future.” The lead presenter was **Rev. Jacqui Lewis**, Senior Minister/Minister for Vision, Worship and the Arts at Middle Collegiate. Those present learned much about embodying hospitality and appreciating multicultural worship.

This gathering offered a preview of **The Leading Edge: A National Conference for Leaders on Faith, Justice and the Economy** that will take place from **April 30-May 3, 2011**. This annual institute convenes leaders from many disciplines, professions, and fields who are committed to pursuing justice for those on the margins. To learn more, please contact Alicia Forde or Janice Marie Johnson.

Building the World We Dream About (BtWWDA):

Building the World We Dream About is a curriculum that aids congregations in building the multicultural Beloved Community we want to embody. It seeks to disrupt the workings of racism and to transform how we relate to one another across racial, ethnic, and cultural differences, in our congregations and beyond.

Have you wondered:

- Why people of different racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds bring such different lenses and understandings to the same events, stories, and discussions?
- What multicultural competency is, and why it is important?
- How you might meet a longing for the kind of intentional experience that will transform your life, deepen your faith, and enrich your soul?

Are you ready to:

- Lead an educational experience that will develop you as a facilitator and a mentor?
- Practice, enhance, and share your multicultural competency?
- Engage more deeply with the congregation you serve as a religious professional?

Is your congregation ready to:

- Engage authentically together about ways race, ethnicity, and culture have shaped your lives?
- Begin an intentionally transformative learning process, based on techniques we know work to help people and congregations build multicultural competency?
- Embrace individual and community practices to sustaining our UU faith now and for the future?

Are you ready...? If so, please visit www.uua.org/tapestryoffaith/buildingworld and contact Janice Marie Johnson, Multicultural Growth Director for the UUA (jmjohnson@uua.org).

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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