

CATALYST

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MULTICULTURAL GROWTH REGARDING RACIAL AND ETHNIC CONCERNS

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

Living Legacy Pilgrimage, 2011:

Photos by Donna Sequeira



Selma voting rights mural, before and after

The 2011 Living Legacy Pilgrimage was deeply transformative as a busload of UUs and friends traveled across Alabama and Mississippi exploring civil rights museums and sites. At every stop, veterans of the movement and/or current activists honored us by sharing their stories and their faith. This year's theme was "**Story, Song and Spirit**"; through the gifts of singer/songwriter Reggie Harris, and the stories from veterans Rev. James Hobart and Rev. Gordon Gibson, we were indeed engaged with story and song.

Throughout our journey, we were immersed in the themes of forgiveness, reconciliation, and hope while honestly looking at the pain, anger, and fear experienced in the face of often violent oppression. Perhaps the most poignant moments came at the burial sites of Jimmie Lee Jackson and James Chaney and the memorial of Viola Liuzzo, when our group organically began cleaning the weeds and debris from the sites. It was as if we were trying to remind ourselves of both the cost and reward of doing the work of justice and creating the 'beloved community.' **The journey continues and we hope you will join us in 2012.**

—**Donna Sequeira**, Racial and Social Justice Coordinator, Southeast District

Leading Edge Conference, 2011:

This year's Leading Edge conference at **Middle Collegiate Church** in New York City focused on Faith, Justice, and the Economy. The UU presence this year was stronger than ever; here are several reflections:

- **Taquiena Boston:** Miguel De La Torre's identification of migrants to the crucified Christ took me back to July 29, 2010, the Day of Noncompliance interfaith worship at Trinity Cathedral. People stood as migrant families and clergy who had held vigil for 100 days at the state Capitol entered the Cathedral carrying a crucifix. The symbolic identification was powerful.
- **Kat Liu:** While the presentations were impressive in their depth and quality, the most important message I came away with was from talking to the people in my small group. I realized that if I am to speak with authenticity on issues of economic justice, learning the facts is not enough. I must cultivate more relationships with those who are most affected.
- **Janice Marie Johnson:** It is at the Leading Edge that I experience people crossing borders and truly embracing those on the margins so that the margins, themselves, cease to exist.

- **Susan Leslie:** The Leading Edge conference really drove home for me that we are in a moment now that has opened up some opportunities for creating a more just, sustainable, and equitable economy in the United States that is based on an understanding of the global economy and the western world's disproportionate control and share of resources.
- **Alex Kapitan:** At Leading Edge I felt, on a soul-deep level, the power of coming together across the lines of denomination, identity, and background. I felt renewed and charged by the energy and spirit of our common struggles and collaboration.

Updates from Our Office:

Are you attending **General Assembly**? Please visit our booth, #730, in the exhibit hall!

Also, we encourage you to attend the following compelling workshops (for more information, visit <http://www.uua.org/ga/programming/18214.shtml>—be sure to check out the Program Guide by Topic!):

Rev. Jacqui Lewis: #2045 Make it Plain: Storying and Leading Multicultural Congregations, and #3024 “Storying” Racial and Economic Justice; **Mark Morrison-Reed:** #2089 Confronting Our Past (with **Mark Harris**), #3049 Rewriting the UU Narrative: Where We Went Wrong, and #4010 Looking Forward, Looking Back: Scholars of Color Assess Our History; #2031 **Linda Stout:** Visioning the World We Want to Live In (Parts I and II); **Tim Wise:** #2062 Roadmap to Racial Equity: Allies in Today’s World

Updates from the UUA:

On Saturday, April 30th, The Thomas Jefferson District's annual meeting voted, effective immediately, to change its name to the Southeast District of the Unitarian Universalist Association. We congratulate the District for being faithful to a thoughtful, integrity-filled name change assessment process.

Upcoming Events:

- July 9 - July 15, Ferry Beach: **Dr. Mark Hicks** will lead a Building the World We Dream About course during **Religious Education Week**. (<http://bit.ly/ferrybeachREweek>)
- July 16 - July 23, Star Island: **Janice Marie Johnson** will lead a Building the World We Dream About course at the **Lifespan Religious Education Conference**. (www.starreweek.com)
- July 27-31, UU Church of Arlington, VA: **Taquienna Boston** will lead a plenary session at the **UU Musicians Network Conference** entitled “Building the Multi-Vocal Community: Music Ministry in a Multicultural World.” (<http://www25.uua.org/uumn/conf/2011/index.htm>)
- July 31 - August 6, Loveland, CO: **Alicia Forde** will co-lead the Beloved Community “track” at the Mountain Desert District’s **Russell Lockwood Leadership School**. (<http://rlls.mdduua.org>)
- August 18-21, Ocean Grove, NJ: **Janice Marie Johnson** will bring the lens of Transformative Multicultural Sensibility to UULTI, the UU Team Leadership Institute of the Central East Regional Group of the UUA, at UULTI by the Sea. (<http://www.cerguua.org/uulti/uultibythesea.html>)

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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The work of the UUA is made possible by the generosity of individual donors and gifts to the Annual Program Fund. Please consider making a donation today to sustain our important work.