



The Joseph Priestley District of the Unitarian Universalist Association

100 W. 10th Street, Suite 1008, Wilmington, DE 19801

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2009 JPD Bridging Retreat Information

Often congregations have so few youth to young adult bridgers that coordinating a workshop or retreat for them is impractical.

What: This retreat addresses a need for these folks to set aside time to reflect on their experiences, and ponder their future. It is designed to be an enhancement to congregational efforts, not a substitution for them.

How: Based on the "Bridging Program" from the UUA, the retreat will be a facilitated exploration of one's own journey.

Who: All those UUs transitioning from youth to young adulthood in the JPD. This is a self defined quality. Some range in age from 17-20 years old, but many are transitioning from high school to leaving the home.

When: Thursday, July 9th at 6pm; until Friday at 6pm, when the optional DYSC CON starts.

Where: Paint Branch UU Church at 3215 Powder Mill Rd, Adelphi, MD 20783.

Details:

1. Enclosed with this letter is an information sheet to fill out and send back to the JPD office by July 6th. The allergy & special needs information you send us will help us to create a program that is safe for everyone. Please take a few minutes to fill it out. You can send it in what ever form works for you.

2. The Bridging Retreat includes several prepared meals, so we are charging a fee of \$25 per person. If this presents a financial hardship, please contact us for a possible reduction.

3. If a bridger is under 18 years old they needs to have an adult advisor/sponsor. Please contact the office if you are under age and can not find someone to come.

4. Our retreat will be an opportunity to talk, laugh, and ponder our Unitarian Universalist gifts and identity, the dangers and potentials of adulthood, and courage, commitment, and claiming our adulthood. For this to happen there will be a lose **schedule:**

Thursday, July 9th: * before you arrive, please eat dinner

6pm Check in, register, eat the food you brought for dinner

7pm Community building/ games

9pm Opening worship, build covenant, sharing our journey so far

11ish socializing, solitude, or serenity

* Sufficient rest is expected of all

Friday, July 10th:

8:30am cold breakfast items are served, available all day.

9 morning worship

9:15am to 5pm continue facilitated work in groups, by ones self, and in other creative ways. Spiritual and regular breaks will be scattered through the day, including lunch.

5pm Closing worship & program evaluation

6pm program ends with a dinner which you can take with you, or stay and enjoy.

5. Optional add on DYSC Summer CON. If you are planning on attending the Summer CON starting the evening of Friday, July 10th, you MUST register with them, pay through them, and be accountable to that community. While this retreat has been planned in conjunction with the CON, it is a separate event. For those that are not a part of the district CON community, every effort is being taken to make this event as welcoming as possible.



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Bridger Participant Information Sheet

Name: _____ Birth date : _____

Please list any food concerns, allergies, or health concerns:

Please write any notes in this area that you believe will be helpful for the bridging leaders to know:

We might use photographs of bridger activities (without names or identifying information) for JPD archival and publicity purposes. Please check if you do NOT give permission for the bridger to be photographed at the retreat.

All youth under the age of 18 must have a sponsor/custodian during the retreat. If you can NOT bring an adult sponsor please **check here:**

Parents/guardians and the bridger are asked to sign below to demonstrate that they understand this requirement and have designated a sponsor/custodian for the duration of the retreat. Also, by signing below, you give us permission to seek appropriate medical attention in the unlikely event that it is needed. Adult leaders will do everything possible to reach the parents or guardians before seeking medical attention.

Bridger Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian [only if under 18]: _____ Date: _____

Phone _____ cell home OK to text it

Email _____ you check it

This information sheet will help us to plan a program that is safe and fun for everyone. Please return this sheet (fax, email, snail mail) to the JPD office (contact information above) **by July 6th**. If you are unable to send this information back in time, you may bring it with you to the retreat, but we **may not have food for you.**

We look forward to seeing you at the **2009 JPD Bridging Retreat at Paint Branch UUC, July 9-10th, 2009.**