



JPD Newsletter

Connecting all Unitarian Universalists in the Joseph Priestley District:

Southern New Jersey, Delaware, Eastern and Central Pennsylvania, Maryland,

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District of Columbia, Northern Virginia

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UU Lehigh Valley Wins Recycling Award, Other UUs Step Up Green Goals

UU of Lehigh Valley, Bethlehem, PA received the city's Green Ribbon Recycler Award at ceremonies in December.

In addition to receiving a plaque from the city's mayor, Bethlehem Recycling Center will feature the church's efforts in its quarterly newsletter, distributed to businesses and residences throughout the city.

The Recycling Center also will film a TV commercial at the church, to be shown with the city's other recycling commercials for one year on a local channel and cable stations.

Lehigh Valley's recycling program is one of many environmental efforts, begun in the past year and aimed at applying for Green Sanctuary certification. The recycling project was a joint effort of the church's Green Space Committee and the Alliance for a Globally Sustainable Healthy Environment.

In other "green scene" news, the congregation of UU of Annapolis, MD voted in November for UUCA to apply for Green Sanctuary Candidacy.

Annapolis reports that it has already achieved eight of the 12 requisites for candidacy. Among these are green coffee hours, a recycling program, a carpooling campaign, Religious Education lectures, and an annual Green Sanctuary service.

UU Congregation of York, PA initiated its first monthly "Green Transit Sunday," encouraging members to carpool, walk or bicycle to the first monthly worship service.

Cherry Hill, NJ UU Supports Area Muslims

Members of UU of Cherry Hill, NJ are supporting the Muslim American Community Association, which is seeking zoning approval to rehabilitate a rundown, vacant building as a mosque in nearby Voorhees, NJ.

Opponents sent anonymous flyers to area residents, painting the Muslims as potential terrorists. Angry and fearful appeals from 100 neighbors have marked public zoning hearings. The Zoning Board appears to be setting higher standards than normal for the Muslims' application.

Cherry Hill's minister, Rev. Melanie Sullivan, other religious leaders, and citizens formed the Coalition for Multi-Faith Democracy, urging a campaign of letter-writing to area newspapers and to the Zoning Board and attendance at zoning hearings in support of religious freedom.

JPD-RE Focuses on Growing Youth Needs

Two 2003 meetings of JPD-RE professionals explored how to better serve growing numbers of teens, children, and 65 plus adults. Inviting lay leaders' aid, three areas of interest were: developing a structure fitting current size and compatible with new policy governance; increased communication skills; creation of a Lifespan Faith Development Council, serving as an advocacy group for better liberal religious education.

JPD Youth Steering Committee plans a Youth Summit for early 2004. The summit will explore what works, what needs change, and new youth programming approaches.

UU of Arlington, VA Will Host Small Ministry Conference in April

When: April 2-3, 2004 Where: UU Church of Arlington, VA, 4444 Arlington Blvd. Theme: "The Sacrament of Small Group Ministry." Who: Professional, lay leaders.

Leaders: Harlan Lampart, UUA director, Lay Leadership Development; Stefan Jonasson, UUA large church specialist; Calvin Dame, UU Community Church, Augusta, ME; Bob Hill, Small Group Ministry author; Thandeka, Meadville Lombard Theological School; Arlington UU co-ministers: Michael McGee and Sarah York.

More Info: contact Connie Grant: cgrant@the-ccv.org.

All Souls Coordinated Annual Thanksgiving Food Collection for D.C. Area Families

As in previous years, All Souls Church Unitarian, Washington, D.C. coordinated the annual Thanksgiving Food collection for needy area families.

Cooperating in the effort were many Washington area UU churches, donating and collecting food. Teenage members delivered the food to All Souls, where members bagged the donations for Thanksgiving dinners.

In 2002, All Souls provided food for several thousand families and raised nearly \$15,000 for critical neighborhood needs.

What's Happening....

In December, UU of Annapolis, MD celebrated Rev. Fred Muir's 20 years of ministry with the church at a special social hour. Dr. William P. Schulz, executive director of Amnesty International USA was speaker; his talk was titled "Tainted Legacy: 9/11 and the Ruin of Human Rights." A special collection for Amnesty International was given in Rev. Muir's honor....Rev. Rebecca Cohen, of Accotink UU received final fellowship from UUA... Mill Creek UU opened its new building, 579 Polly Drummond Hill Rd., Newark, DE. In 1988 Mill Creek was a spin-off from First Church of Wilmington, DE, which provided financial aid and human resources during Mill Creek's start-up period. Building dedication is set for March 28....The United Way of the Capital Region chose one of the women in the PROGRAM for Female Offenders for its poster. UU of Harrisburg supports the PROGRAM as its all-church social action project. The Poster celebrity wore a dress from the church's Dress for Success Clothing Bank... More than 150 area UUs attended a fall festival at the site of newly-purchased land where Sugarloaf Congregation, Germantown, MD will build a new church.... UU Congregation of the South Jersey Shore, Margate, NJ raised \$2,310 for its fall Birding and Breakfast event and another \$800 packing and selling lunches at the Murray Grove Homecoming.

What We Care About....

The 12th Fiatfala Festival of RIVER ROAD UU, Bethesda, MD raised \$1,800, aiding projects for its partner church in Romania. A fall concert

aided college scholarships for minority students...UU BERKS COUNTY, Reading, PA collected winter clothing for many of the 125 adults served by its Food Pantry and provided food to 450 neighbors.... UNIVERSALIST NATIONAL MEMORIAL CHURCH, Washington, D.C. continues twice monthly dinners for male residents of Leland Place, a residence for homeless men recovering from drug addiction...UU FELLOWSHIP OF HARFORD COUNTY, Churchville, MD collected clothing for Pine Ridge, Rosebud, and other SD Indian reservations. The Fellowship supported a dinner-silent auction, aiding the county's Homeless Shelter Project, providing a first transitional home for eight working men.

UUs Sing the Green Java Jive

*"I like coffee, I like tea,
I like the Green Java Jive, and it likes me."*

Throughout JPD, UU Green Sanctuary groups are serving and selling Fair Trade Coffee at fellowship hours and church events.

Among participants are: Accotink UU, Burke, VA; UU Cherry Hill, NJ; Congregations, Columbia, MD and Mount Vernon, Alexandria, VA; Channing Memorial, Ellicott City, MD; First Churches, Philadelphia, PA and Wilmington, DE; River Road Unitarian, Bethesda, MD; and UU Fellowship, Salisbury, MD. (This list may not be inclusive.)

Supported by the UU Service Committee, this program helps poor Central, South American farmers earn a decent living and, because the coffee is shade-grown, protects the environment

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