

RESOURCES FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATORS

Debby Herman: revised May 3, 2008; Karen LoBracco updated Nov. 9, 2008

TRAINING/NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

- Renaissance modules – in and out of district (usually about \$140 + travel)
- O.W.L. training - (about \$160 + travel)
- New DRE orientation, RE Chair/leaders workshop, Small RE Programs workshop, Safe Congregations and other day-long workshops offered as needed, usually with a small fee.
- R.E. Fall Ingathering (in-district, late September or October - \$10)
- Leadership schools – EAGLES in the SLD and The Mountain in North Carolina – week-long programs offered every summer
- Meadville Lombard Winter Institute (Madison, Wisconsin in February)
- RE workshops at district meetings
- General Assembly
- LREDA fall conference (national) in mid October – registration of approximately \$280 plus travel and hotel costs.
- LREDA Seaway (local chapter) fall meeting/retreat usually in early November, cost is less than \$75 (plus travel) for a 24-hr. retreat.
- RE week at UU Summer camps (Star Island, Ferry Beach, The Mountain)
- RE retreat weekend at Camp Unirondack (last weekend in June)

ONLINE RESOURCES

- Helpful pages on the UUA's website (uua.org)
 - ❖ From the Religious Education home page, <http://www.uua.org/religiouseducation/index.shtml>, you can link to a vast array of information on resources, curriculum, teacher development, leadership, and youth and young adult programming.
 - ❖ For a calendar of Renaissance and other RE trainings and events go to <http://www.uua.org/events/index.shtml>.
 - ❖ For a calendar of upcoming *Our Whole Lives (OWL)* facilitator trainings go to <http://www.uua.org/religiouseducation/curricula/ourwhole/18217.shtml>.
 - ❖ For UUA Fair Compensation guidelines, go to <http://uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary/compensation/index.shtml>. And for compensation information specific to religious educators go to <http://www.uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary/compensation/20471.shtml>
 - ❖ Link directly to the youth office page at <http://uua.org/YRUU>
 - ❖ Link to religious education credentialing information at <http://www.uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary/religiouseducation/index.shtml>
 - ❖ Link to information on safety and ethics at <http://www.uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary/ethicscongregational/index.shtml>

- ❖ To link to a congregational or district website, go to the district services page at <http://www.uua.org/aboutus/professionalstaff/districtservices/index.shtml> and refer to the sidebar.
- ❖ Link to the website for our professional organization, LREDA (Liberal Religious Educators Assn) at <http://www.uua.org/lreda> for event information and resources on leadership, compensation, ethics and best practices, and much more.
- ❖ For lots of information and creative ideas, check recent or archived issues of UU Faith Works (formerly REACH), published twice per year, at <http://archive.uua.org/re/faithworks>. Paper copies may be ordered at \$20/yr. Each issue includes resources on RE administration, community building, curriculum and learning, leadership development, social justice, and worship.
- ❖ Link to the Church of the Larger Fellowship’s website at <http://clf.uua.org/#> for a variety of resources and curricula designed to support small congregations and families. From “Publications” on the sidebar you may access their Between Sundays program; KidTalk, with information about celebrations for upcoming holidays; and supplemental materials for the UU & Me pages included in the *UU World*. In addition to access to many free resources, from their webpage you may subscribe to RE Express Plus (\$129/yr) and receive new resources each month.
- ❖ Online list-serves – REACH-I and LREDA-I (LREDA members only); also youth advisor, OWL leaders, and others – subscribe from <http://lists.uua.org/mailman/listinfo/uua-l>
- An excellent resource for finding curricula by independent UU authors may be found at to <http://uucards.org>. UUCARDS stands for Unitarian Universalist Curriculum and Resource Developers.
- For small congregations, see MRE Helen Zidowecki’s sample teachers’ manual for small UU RE programs at <http://hzmre.com/resmall/sstman.php>.
- For an overview of various new models for religious education, go to <http://www.uucreations.com>.
- To access the new online Safe Congregations (sexual abuse prevention) resource recently developed jointly by the UUA and the New England Adolescent Research Center, go to <http://courses.neari.com>. This free, interactive curriculum is based on Debra Haffner’s book *Balancing Acts*. The manual itself may be downloaded for free from <http://archive.uua.org/cde/ethics/balancing>.
- Go to <http://www.uuintergenerational.org/> for intergenerational worship service scripts – some involve children and youth in the actual service, others are for adults to present for an intergenerational audience.
- Go to <http://www.rec-room.org/> for resources for planning & teaching UU RE programs. On this site find descriptions and ordering information for curricula not available through the UUA bookstore at www.rec-room.org/REsources/curricula.html.
- Go to <http://uure.org> and check out this independent site offering information on RE administration and ministries; original curricula, stories, skits & homilies; and handouts from past LREDA fall conferences. When registering, enter the following key: 156508.
- St. Lawrence District website: <http://sld.uua.org/>, youth website: <http://sld-yruu.org>

- A newsletter/information packet is distributed electronically by the St. Lawrence District three times per year and contains the latest information about district programming. Access it online from the district website at <http://sld.uua.org>.

PRINTED RESOURCES

- *Essex Conversations* available from the UUA bookstore at <http://uua.org/bookstore/>
- UU Faith Works packets (see above - free online or \$20/yr mailed)
- Gould Library holdings (year-long borrowing). Catalog available from the district website, & mailed each fall, or upon request from the Gould Librarian at klobracco@uua.org.
- *RE Roadmap: A Guidebook for Religious Educators on Administering RE Programs* is one of the most useful resources available to UU religious educators. The recently updated version is available for purchase from one of the authors, Cindy Leitner, at cbleitner@hotmail.com.
- *Starting from Scratch* is a newly revised booklet packed with basic resources. Two new chapters address important issues of safety and diversity. (Also available from the UUA Bookstore)
- *Welcoming Children With Special Needs* by Sally Patton is a valuable resource for integrating *all* children into our programs of Lifespan Faith Development. Available through the UUA Bookstore. Sally also conducts *Involve* training workshops on this topic.
- *Youth Advisor Handbook* gives an overview of a balanced youth program, guidelines for leaders and program ideas. Available through the UUA bookstore.

OTHER SUPPORT

- Our professional organization, LREDA (Liberal Religious Educators Association), online at <http://uua.org/lreda/>, or see the brochure. Local chapter is Seaway. The Good Officer for our district is Jan Gartner, janw@rochesterunitarian.org or 585-271-9070
- Covenant development between the DRE and the congregation or between the DRE and the minister or staff. Jeanne Crane is one of the professionals trained to provide this service for a fee - contact her at 585-394-5679.
- District Religious Education Committee provides general support and training – contact the current chair through the Program Consultant.
- Contact your St. Lawrence District Program Consultant for a phone or email consultation, or to schedule an on-site consultation or workshop - Karen LoBracco at 585-637-6374 or klobracco@uua.org.