

BUSKING on the COURSEWAY



Spring * Summer
2004

The Newsletter of YRUU
in Canada



<http://www.cuc.ca/youth>
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“So What is a YOB Anyways?”

Myda, Outgoing YOB

I was asked this question and others during the QuOM Conference in Ottawa in February, and thought maybe a little description and some answers to those questions would be a good idea as it's soon election time for next year's YOB. So YOB... Youth Observer to the Board. Sounds pretty "official" like all other crazy U*U acronyms, SAC, DYC, etc. The YOB is a member of the YAG, our national Youth Advisory Group. Being the YOB means going to CUC Board meetings, and YAG meetings, participating in YAG conference calls, and listening to the Canadian Youth voice. Basically it's a position that relays information from the YAG to the CUC Board, informing them what's going on, policies we want changed, ideas we have for the future AC&Ms or YRUU programming in Canada. Then the YOB relays whatever the CUC Board says back to the YAG, and the information or news ideally gets spread across Canada to all you youth out there.

Come the AC&M this May, candidates who have applied to be the all new YOB for 2004-05 will be met, or we will get to hear from them, and their 200 word application all about themselves will be posted on the CUC website. The following month every youth in Canada will have the chance to go over the applications and choose who they would like to have represent the Canadian Youth Voice. The votes will be collected by youth in each congregation and region and the candidate with the majority of votes will have their application reviewed by the CUC Board and will be accepted as the new YOB for the year. This year there will be no chance for a single

candidate situation because many of you will all apply to get this great position!

Look for more detailed information on the position in the next monthly mailing, and get your thinking caps on for your application because in is one hundred percent worth it. If you don't want to apply, be sure to vote and get your voice heard!



Honouring Youth Transitions Regionally and Nationally

Sylvia Bass-West

As Unitarians and Unitarian Universalists, we strive to be sensitive to the life transitions of all the members of our community and we recognize that there are special needs of our young people transitioning from late childhood into early adolescence.

I believe that it is our charge (both as older youth in leadership positions and adults in our religious communities) to acknowledge, support, guide, and celebrate this transition. Coming of Age programming has happened with great success in some of our CUC congregations but has not yet been necessary at regional and national gatherings, until now.

With the age range of our national youth conference moving to 14-20 years, appropriate and inspiring COA programming at a national level is now being planned. The plan for next year's ACM, May 2005 in Hamilton is to run a COA or junior youth conference for youth 12 - 14, concurrent but separate in many aspects from the CanUUdle youth con. Some

opportunities for transitioning in to the events and gatherings with the YRUU at their youth con would be planned. Some time apart would also be in place. Having 14 year old youth welcome to attend either junior youth or YRUU cons allows for the similar transition period given between YRUU and Young Adult programs.

Age ranges for CUC sponsored COA events might be

- 12-14 Junior Youth
- 14-20 YRUU (through our continental YRUU connections)
- 18-35 Young Adult (through our continental C*UUYAN connections)

We have a model of a COA mini-con from the St. Lawrence District. It is a good start that could be modified and enhanced to meet our needs. I know there are other models 'out there' as well. These give us a start. The regional YACs will be invited share their understanding and experience so that we can hear the dreams and the experience of all! I invite you to start now. What are some things you'd like to see happen at a "junior youth" or coming of age con in your region or at the national level?

I invite all those who share this dream of a "junior youth conference" to connect with me. Mona Zaharia, DRE in Winnipeg has already offered to be in conversation to begin planning for a Coming of Age or junior youth con model for the Western Regional Fall Gathering, being hosted in Winnipeg October 3-5, 2004.

As we in Canada develop a model of Coming of Age programming at regional and national gatherings we will try it, assess it, revise it, try it again ~always seeking input and feedback from those most affected by our plans ~the

youth who attend.

At the other end of the transition, is YRUU to young adult, of course. Our young people ages 18 - 20 are welcome to attend YRUU youth events (14 -20) and also transition into Continental UU Young Adult Network (C*UUYAN) young adult events (18-35). Bridging ceremonies are special rites of passage which celebrate the transition between youth and young adulthood and will be in place at national gatherings whenever possible.

Our new Regional Organizing Consultant for Canada, Elisabeth Bailey and our Young Adult regional representatives with C*UUYAN will be active in visioning for the future of Young Adult and Campus Ministry in Canada! This will no doubt include conversations with YRUU.

There will be a networking opportunity for a group discussion around youth programming addressing age transitions (particularly Coming of Age) during the Annual Conference and Meeting Networking times, Saturday 4 pm in Edmonton. If you'll be in Edmonton, please share your thoughts and offer your support and leadership there as well! If there is someone who would like to facilitate this networking session, I'd welcome that!

Sylvia Bass-West, Director of Lifespan Learning
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Penpals!

Think of the incredible people you meet at regional and national cons. Think of how neat it feels to get an honest-to-goodness paper letter in the mail. Now, how about combining those two wonderful things? (I bet you know where this is going...) You can, by signing up to be a penpal! When you do, you will be paired with another Canadian YRUU from somewhere across this land, and you'll write letters, real snail-mail ones, to each other! And guess what! It's free, excepting for the postage on your envelopes. Email the cuc-youth@yahoo.com to ask for more info.



New Songs - Upcoming Events

This section is incomplete due to a severe shortage of information and time to look it up.

CanUudle III - May 21 to 24, Edmonton.

SATUURDAY - A GLBTQ conference. June 30 to July 4, location unknown.

General Assembly (GA) - The big meeting for all U*Us, including youth. June 24 to 28, Long Beach, California.

Con Con (Continental Conference) - A continental youth conference. July 9 to 15, Camp Arrowbear, California.

Get Your Jark Con! - Late August, Unicamp (I think).



Sheet Music - Communications listing

cuc-youth@yahoogroups.com. This listserve for ALL Canadian youth. So if you're a youth and Canadian (or even if you're not), sign up! To do so, send a blank email to cuc-youth-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

quom-youth@yahoogroups.com. The listserve for the QuOM region (Quebec, Ontario, Maritimes). To subscribe, send a blank email to quom-youth-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

WCR@topica.com. The listserve for the Western Canada region. To sign on, send a blank e-mail to WCR-subscribe@topica.com or visit <http://www.topica.com/lists/WCR/>

cuc-sr-youth@yahoogroups.com. The listserve for youth involved in the Social Responsibility committees and interested in social responsibility in general. To subscribe, send a blank email to cuc-sr-youth-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.



Two Cents - Note from the Editor

Saille Bishop-Legowski

Disclaimer: any monkey-brainedness in this issue can be attributed to an Easter weekend's quota of sleep deprivation.

This issue isn't very detailed, and while this is partly my doing in running out of time, this is also due to a **total lack of submissions from you!** If you want better content, submit it! There's only so much I can do.

