

Busking on the Causeway

The Canadian YRUU Newsletter

Winter/Spring 2003

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CanUuddle III	1
The Youth Advisory Group	1
Help Wanted!	1
Nation-Wide Coffee House	2
BC Youth Adult Council Meeting	2-3
Cultural Appropriation	3
From Our Neighbours to the South	3-4
Upcoming Events	4
Listserves	4
Editor's Note	4

Help Wanted for Busking on the Causeway

Volunteers are needed to help make Busking on the Causeway. This means gathering articles and photos, writing reports and putting it together. At the moment, it looks as though the newsletter will be published twice a year, in print and PDF, so it would involve a few hours of your time in the month or so before publication. This may change, depending on how many volunteers come forward. If you're interested, email Saille Bishop-Legowski at sailleway@yahoo.com. Remember, the more of us there are working on this, the less work we all have to do.

CanUuddle III: Practicing our Principals Is Coming!

The annual con of Canadian youth will be taking place in Winnipeg, MB, from May 16-19, 2003. The con is open to Youth ages 13-20 who are part of UU congregation or youth group. There is an \$85 registration fee. Features social action, community building, planning the future of YRUU in Canada, a youth-led worship at a historic aboriginal site, a BBQ and bonfire, swimming, a youth business meeting, and a Youth Advisory Group (YAG) workshop.

Empowering Youth in Canada: The Youth Advisory Group (YAG)

The YAG met December 13-15, 2002 in Toronto. The following mission statement was developed during this time.

“We, the CUC Youth Advisory Group, dedicate ourselves to the UU Principles; in that, we will create a vision of ministry with youth in Canada by empowering youth ~ both voice and role; honouring the diversity of regions, establishing cohesiveness amongst a community of faith, by fostering and nurturing communication links locally, regionally, nationally, continentally and internationally.”



The YAG met in Toronto in Dec. 2002. Back row, L to R: Keith Barron, Asha Philar, Roger Davies, Camille Twomey, Samaya Oakley, Elizabeth Gamble. Front row, L to R, Jesse Jaeger, Stephen Turnbull, Rachelle Rickards, Sam Trumbull, Dorothy Ashworth.

Nation-Wide Coffee Houses in Support of Youth Programming

By Robbie Brydon

ATTENTION YOUTH!!

Due to the Canadian unity slogan “My winter includes April!” and the desperate shortage of funding for youth programming, you are **STRONGLY** encouraged to run a con-style coffee house at your congregation within the next two months. Half the profits will go toward your own group and the other half will be directed to your region’s Youth Adult Committee or similar governing body to help in the planning of regional events. Across the country we will try to get as many groups as possible running events on the night of Friday, April 11, but if that doesn’t work for you then feel free to host it another night.

What is a Con-Style Coffee House and How Do I Run One?

Both answers are pretty simple. You invite everyone you can possibly find (church members love anything done by youth) for an evening of snacks, warm beverages, music and other artistic performances. Who supplies the music? Everyone you invite!! You can either have a sign up list at the start of the evening or simply open the stage and let people drift up to play an instrument, sing, perform a soliloquy, dialogue, comic routine, etc. You may be surprised at the level of talent, especially musical, that your congregation possesses (especially given the sound during Sunday morning hymns). Charge a small admission fee (\$5 or so) and sell snacks.

Simple Steps to Running a Successful Coffee House

1. Get every youth in your congregation involved
2. Book a room in your congregation with sound equipment for an evening (weekends are suggested)
3. Get **FAIR TRADE** coffee, tea and hot chocolate, juice and a few munchables (chips, cookies, brownies, Rice Krispie Squares, etc.) for more information on where to get fair trade goods, please see www.transfair.ca and look under the retail section for any product
4. Advertise like crazy!!!! Tell all your friends,

as many people in your congregation as possible and get something printed in the order of service and/or the newsletter.

5. Enjoy the night (we know you’ve got a couple of acts, ready the stage!)

Take half the profits and send the rest to:

CUC
C/O Lifespan Learning, YAG
Suite 705
55 Eglinton Ave E.
Toronto ON
M4P 1G8

BC Youth Adult Council (YAC) Meeting
and Regional Conference at North Shore
Church Nov. 9 2002

Fiona Mackie and Kellina Dyer both attended the Regional Conference in Vancouver on November 9, 2002. There, they went to a youth planning workshop for the BC YAC (Youth Advisory Council). The following are their comments on the meetings.

“There was quite a large turnout- one of the largest, with over 100 people crowded into the North Shore Unitarian church. Unfortunately for the youth, a total of only five could make it- one from Kelowna, two from Vancouver, and Kellina and I from Victoria . . . This was rather disappointing but we made the best of it..

“There was a lot to get done in the short time we had. We were trying to put together a YAC.” -Fiona.

“We decided also that the people that were there (6 of us at one point) were to become the BC YAC, and we rewrote the YAC rule book to apply to us, and to suit what was going on.” -Kellina.

“Our job is to act as representatives for youth in British Columbia and lay out guidelines that B.C. youth will have to follow. We also do things like run the youth conferences. There are eight positions to fill- but as only five turned up, so far there are only five people on the YAC. We also have an adult advisor, Samaya Oakley, but she stresses the fact that as this is

continued on page 3

a youth organization it should be run mainly by the youth themselves.” -Fiona

“We discussed issues that were important to us, like the issues of lack of communication between churches and their youth...

“We also have geographical area heads – Keith Barron and Laurel Newton for the mainland area, Alicia Gladman for the interior (Kelowna, Kamloops) and Fiona and myself for the island. What this means is that these people will send letters or visit other churches, and tell them about YAC, and get them more involved in everything. We are meeting with the PNWD YAC on January 10-11 to discuss what we have been doing, and on February 14-16, we will be going to Kelowna with our YAC to go to a LDC (Leadership Development Conference)...

“Also at the meeting, we were able to meet many of the “big” CUC people – Sylvia Bass West (Director of Lifespan Learning), Mary Bennet (Executive Director of the CUC), Sara McEwan (Director of Regional Services, West), Lynn Sabourin (Director of Religious Education in North Shore) and Samaya Oakley, the youth advisor there.” -Kellina.

“We got a lot done, considering that when we had started there was no existing YAC, and when we finished, there was!

“we also led an energy break, of "I'm a little teapot", which was very enjoyable.” -Fiona.



The BC SHOUT team leads “I’m a Little Teapot” as an energy break at the Regional Fall Conference.

“Overall, it was a very rewarding experience, despite the lack of youth turnout. I hope that we will soon be

able to get the YAC fully organized, and that there will be many more conferences to enjoy.” -Fiona.

Cultural Appropriation ~ Written at Con Con 2002 During Identity Groups

~*Sam Trumbull*

As a white Unitarian Universalist I have spent majority of my RE childhood learning about other religions, and other cultures. We learned their principles and beliefs, their books. We learned about the seven principles. I took the Neighboring Faiths curriculum, and visited Buddhist Temples, Synagogues, Hindu temples, Episcopal churches; we made prayer rugs and did yoga.

I grew up believing in things that I gathered from these experiences. Sure, I believed in the UU principles, but I believed in a spirit, in a soul. Those aren't things that I got from UUism. I began to build an idea about the person that I want to be. I had started to grow into that idea.

Last summer I arrived at Con Con 2001, excited, and happy with who I was. I had my first experience with Identity Groups there. We talked about racism, but what affected me the most, was when we talked about cultural appropriation. A workshop of two hours made me realize that the person I had developed, my idea of myself, and everything I believed had been taken from other religions, other cultures. It was all fake; not mine to take. What now was UUism to me? Everything we say and do is stolen. What now does it mean to be a Unitarian Universalist? Where do we draw the lines of cultural appropriation? Other religions wouldn't have these problems because the religions are a part of a culture. But now, all I can think is that we're a bunch of hypocrites for learning about Cultural Appropriation and being UU.

From Our Neighbours to the South

At Con Con (Continental Conference) 2003, many Canadians present and a few interested Americans gathered to discuss the issues facing YRUU in Canada. During the meetings, the lack of communication between the youth and the CUC and the underfunding

continued on page 4

of youth programs became apparent. Since those meetings, our American friends have stepped up to the plate.

The Youth Council has sent us a check for \$1,200 US for youth leadership training that incorporates anti-racism. \$400 US that were raised at Con Con 2003's Social Auction were set aside for Canadian youth programs. Some districts are imposing a \$1 head "tax" at cons under the direction of a Youth Council resolution, with the proceeds going directly to the CUC. The following districts have contributed: the Thomas Jefferson District sends a check for \$45 US, the Ohio-Meadville district sends two checks for \$67 and \$92, the Mass Bay district sends a check for \$116 and the Mountain-Desert District sends \$300.

We are immensely grateful for this show of support from our fellow YRUUs. Thank you so much. We tip our hats to you.

Upcoming events

Diverse & Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries (DRUUMM) Youth and Young Adults of Colour Conference - Washington, DC. March 27-30, 2003. Registration and info at www.druumm.org. Travel information needs to be submitted by March 12.

YRUU Chaplain Training Event - Indianapolis, Indiana. May 16-18. The first ever! See www.uua.org/yruu for info and registration.

CanUuddle III: Practicing our Principals - Winnipeg, Manitoba. May 16-19. The annual con of Canadian YRUUs. See page 1 for details.

GA (General Assembly) - Boston, MA. June 26-30. Open to youth and adults from across North America. Scholarships will be available. Staff applications are online at www.uua.org/yruu. For more information about Youth Caucus contact the youth office yruu@uua.org or see www.uua.org for general information.

Con Con (Continental Conference) - near Boston, MA. Tentatively July 28 to August 3. The annual meeting of youth from across the continent. For more information and registration, see www.uua.org/yruu.

How Shall We Live? UU Youth Conference - Ilyefalva, Romania. August 4-16, 2003. An International UU Youth Conference. See www.uua.org/yruu for more details.

Listserves

cuc-youth@yahoogroups.com For Canadian YRUUs. To subscribe, send a blank email message to cuc-youth-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

cuc-agm-youth@yahoogroups.com For people planning CanUuddle, the annual youth con. To subscribe, send a blank email message to cuc-agm-youth-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

cuc-youth-news@yahoogroups.com Receive monthly news via email about what's happening across Canada. To subscribe, send a blank email to cuc-youth-news-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

quom-youth@yahoogroups.com For YRUUs in the QuOM District (Quebec, Ontario **except Thunder Bay**, Maritime). To subscribe, send a blank email message to quom-youth-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

wcd-yruu@uua.org For people in the Western Canada District (WCD, Alberta to Thunder Bay). To subscribe, send an email to wcd-yruu-subscribe@uua.org with the word "subscribe" in the body of the message.

Know of any other YRUU listserves or message boards? Email the vital stats (who it's for, how to join) to sailleway@yahoo.com.

Editor's Note

This was an interesting project. I've never written a newsletter before, and I'm not sure what possessed me to volunteer, but here I am. I'd really appreciate some help (*hint hint*).

I hope the current troubles of the world are resolved in a nonviolent fashion. While we speak out, there is hope. In the mean time, "Peace be upon you."

In Faith, Saille Bishop-Legowski