

Welcome to E-Link, your bi-monthly online news about Youth and Family Ministry from the Association of Unity Churches International. Each issue provides bits of current information and connects all of us who serve in Unity Youth and Family Ministry. Send comments to Bernadette Swanson at cwriter@unity.org.

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HOME OFFICE INFO

[STAFF CONTACT INFO](#) OR WWW.UNITY.ORG/STAFF

Kathy Kellogg, children's & family ministry, Tues-Thurs (**changed**), 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

Jane Simmons, teen ministry, Mon-Wed 8 a.m.-4 p.m., and Thurs 8 a.m.-noon.

Rachel Simpson, teen ministry assistant, Mondays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Use email the rest of the week.

Bernadette Swanson, education editor, Mon-Thurs 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Regional Update

Tiffany Emmitt, who at the present time is the NGU consultant for Southeast region, is now also serving temporarily in the position of Uniteen Consultant (probably until at least October). Her email address is seuniteens@gmail.com.

We welcome Tiffany and we say goodbye to our dear friend Michele Senac as she moves into new experiences and adventures! Thanks for all your dedication to our youth, Michele. Best wishes in your new endeavors. We will miss you.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Child/Teen Ministry Week

Child/Teen Ministry Week, July 11-16, 2010, at the Association of Unity Churches' home office, is an amazing opportunity to dig deeper into youth and family ministry, explore new tools and skills, and network with others who share the same vision. If you are planning on coming, just a gentle reminder that [registrations](#) are **due by June 1**.

This training is required for Certified Spiritual Educator credentialing.

Music

Music in youth ministry is featured in the current issue of Sound Connections. Read [Rev. Diane Venzera's article](#) about ways to use music in our programs, plus look at the various CD's available.



Creative Information Area

Unity Spokane, Washington, has a space for their Seva (refers to selfless service) center where all the information for classes, events, volunteer opportunity sign-ups, script & ticket sales for events take place. The creators of this area wanted to feature the youth ministry in a special way and painted a mural using three of their own kids. An easel has the list of open positions in youth ministry along with a sign up sheet that says "Are the children calling your name?" Thanks to Rev. Jackie Green, Youth and Family Minister, for sharing this.

Twelve Powers Are "In" for 2010

If you want to explore the 12 Powers for next year, we have resources available for you. Go to our [Children's Ministry webpage](#) and scroll down. More resources can be found in the [Fall 2009 issue of Education Links](#).

The Twelve Gifts From God Volume 1 (January-June) is available as a [free download](#). Volume 2 is still available for purchase through our Shop online. Order number is [BA6057](#).

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH OF UNITY WWW.UNITY.ORG/IYOU

Don't miss out on registration discount for the 2010 IYOU event, *Peace be Still*, held August 1-6 at Three Trails Camp and Retreat Center, Kansas City, Missouri. Full registration cost takes effect June 8.

Join us for an exciting week of heart-centered prayer, meditation, music, dance, service, compassionate communication, laughter and fun as we connect with each other, explore our Unity Truth principles and put them into practice. A day long visit to Unity Village is also scheduled. Our wonderful guest musicians are Armand and Angelina!

For more information and fun videos, see www.unity.org/iyouevent and [our Facebook page](#).

Available from the Southeast Region is a [chapter plan for special-needs YOUers](#).

Sponsors and YOUers, would you like to share your good ideas, amazing lessons, fund raisers, service projects, etc? Visit www.facebook.com/youthofunity and join the discussion.

Daily Word for Teens: On www.unity.org/curriculum, under the YOU section, is a link to *Daily Word for Teens* on Amazon.com. If you order it *from that link*, Unity will get a percentage of the price.

Explore the possibilities of ["green" fund raising](#) for your youth group.

Vintage YOU Pins: Hot item! Formerly \$6.00 each. Now only \$1.00. See Stimulus Sale below.

CURRICULUM & RESOURCES

[Small Group Ministry Guide](#) (BA1109) is now available! Must-have, how-to resource for organizing, marketing, training and writing curriculum for small group ministry.

The helpful [Quick Connect Guide](#) highlights the services the Association provides to the field. It also lists contact information for staff. (Some staff have changed as this was produced just prior to the November layoffs.)

From the I AM Foundation: Be Part of History with the "Loving Our Planet Campaign." Help them gift over one million *I Am the Earth* e-books around the world!

We are so excited to invite you to be part of this historical "Loving Our Planet Campaign." Completely a gift to you and the world community, you can help inspire millions of children and adults around the globe to be the greatest stewards of the planet they can be! Receive your gift copy of [I Am The Earth](#).

Join them by helping them gift over one million beautifully illustrated, full-color *I Am the Earth* e-books to children and adults worldwide. The *I Am the Earth* book, music album, and curriculum were created to help all of us celebrate Earth Day every day. When we take care of the planet, we take care of ourselves and each other.

This campaign is at no cost to you. You can simply gift the *I Am the Earth* e-book through your e-newsletters, website, social media and/or blog.

[Soul Sunday: A Family's Guide to Exploring Faith and Teaching Tolerance](#) by Carrie Brown-Wolf.

Carrie and her husband created a time set aside each week for an hour of religious and cultural exploration that includes play. Family members gain an understanding of diversity and tolerance, and a stronger belief in themselves and each other. See her web at www.soulsunday.org.

[Make a Difference with the Power of Connection](#) is a new book by Mary Robinson Reynolds. It shows parents and teachers how a shift in their attention using compassion and connection can make a difference in transforming intense behavioral situations.

[Stimulus Sale](#) of kid's books, curriculum & miscellaneous. Call 816.434.6813 to order.

EXCELLENT WEBSITES

Unity Website

Association information is under the **Ministries & Leaders** tab at www.unity.org. When in the **Shop**, be sure to login with your ministry account to see wholesale pricing.

Find Distinguished Youth Service Award info at www.unity.org/DYSABrochure.

Find curriculum recommendations at www.unity.org/curriculum.

See Religious Emblem resources at www.unity.org/emblem

Get Regional Education Consultant information at www.unity.org/REC.

Other Websites

Discover your [multiple intelligence strengths](#). Thanks to SCUCA Region Children's Consultant, Marygrace Sorenson for sharing this.

Visit these websites for **peaceful parenting** resources:

http://www.nonviolentcommunication.com/parenting_tips/index.htm

<http://casts.webvalence.com/listmgr/subscribe?lists=PeacefulParentsNewsletter>

NATIONAL EVENTS

Spirit's Light

8th Annual National New Thought Children & Teen Ministry Conference

Thursday, May 13 to Saturday, May 15, 2010 **Registration deadline is April 21, 2010.**

Cenacle Retreat & Conference Center, Chicago, IL

T.E.A.M. U.P. (*Totally Empowered Awesome Ministries Uplifting People*)

Bring your Youth & Family Ministry team and join us for networking with Spiritual Educators from around the country and to enjoy our featured presenters, classes & events.

For more information or to request a complete conference brochure please contact Rev. Diane Venzera 708.785.7566 diane@dianevenzera.com www.spiritslight.org

Global Free Hugs Day IV Coming up soon!

April 18, 2010 For more information, visit www.positive-focus.com and click on Global Free Hugs.

REGIONAL TRAININGS

Great Lakes Region

Youth Team Training: It Takes a Village, Saturday, May 8, 2010, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Unity Church of Anderson, Anderson, IN

Contact: Diane Venzera 708.785.7566 diane@dianevenzera.com

Great Lakes Spring Unitreat, April 30–May 2, 2010, Jackson, MI

For Uniteens, Leaders and Chaperones

Contact: Eileen Patra, CSE, LUT epatra@gmail.com or visit www.glruniteens.org

Youth Team Training: The Enlivened Lesson Plan, July 24, 2010, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

New Thought Unity Center, Cincinnati, OH

Contact: Diane Venzera 708.785.7566 diane@dianevenzera.com

Great Lakes Fall Unitreat Save the date! Nov 5-7, 2010, Ingleside, IL

For Uniteens, Leaders and Chaperones

Contact: Eileen Patra, CSE, LUT epatra@gmail.com 248.318.7028 or visit

www.glruniteens.org

Northwest Region

YOU Retreat, Oct 15-17, 2010, Camp Waskowitz, North Bend, WA, 4 pm Fri-1 pm Sun.

Contact: Jackie Green jackienwyou@comcast.net 509.928.0896

SCUCA (South Central) Region

Information: www.scucaregion.com/Youth&Family-Trainings.html

August 28, Mid-south Texas area, including Austin cluster. Unity Church of the Hills, 9905 Anderson Mill Road, Austin, TX 78750. For directions, contact Linda Hancock at 512.335.4449.

October 23, Missouri and Kansas, and Kansas City Cluster. Unity Church of Overland Park, 10300 Antioch Road, Overland Park, KS 66212. For directions, contact Brandon Nagel at 913.649.1750.

November 13, New Mexico and Texas Pan Handle. Unity Spiritual Center, 9800 Candelaria Road NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112. For directions, contact Giselle Vivian at 505.292.1998.

Southeast Region

For all registration information, please visit www.seunityyouth.org

Middle Southeast Teacher Training, April 24, 2010, Unity of Pensacola, FL. 9 am-3 pm.

Registration \$30. Contact Steven Butler 352.376.8561

Youth Director Retreat, May 21-23, 2010, Life Enrichment Center, Fruitland Park, FL.

Registration ends April 30. Contact Steven Butler 352.376.8561

EDUCATION LINKS ONLINE

Education Links is available online at www.unity.org/el. [Sign up](#) to be notified so you won't miss out on any issues. Contact Kathy Kellogg at kid@unity.org to contribute articles.

A SERVICE OF YOUR ASSOCIATION OF UNITY CHURCHES INTERNATIONAL