


Interweave World

Vibrant Threads from Unitarian Universalists for Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Concerns ▼ August/September 2005

Interweave's Mission/Vision

Interweave Continental is a membership organization actively working to end oppression based on sexual orientation and gender identity, recognizing that we will not be free until all oppression is a thing of the past. We are an affiliate organization of the Unitarian Universalist Association, and our work is guided by Unitarian Universalist principles. We value and affirm the lives and experience of Queer people of faith of all ages, races, ethnicities, income levels, and abilities. By providing and supporting leadership, and working in collaboration with other organizations of similar vision, we strive to connect and nurture all Queer individuals, communities, groups, and their allies.

This Issue...

- ▼ President.....pg 2
- ▼ Convocation 2006.....pg 3
- ▼ Interfaith Music.....pg 3
- ▼ 500-foot Rainbow.....pg 5
- ▼ Chapter Chatter.....pg 6
- ▼ Find-a-Chapter.....pg 7
- ▼ Misread.....pg 8
- ▼ Join Us.....pg 9
- ▼ Last Word.....pg 10

General Assembly 2005

This year's General Assembly (GA), held in Fort Worth, Texas, was inspiring, challenging, fun, overwhelming, invigorating, tiring, joyous, and a celebration of all that is Unitarian Universalism!

Interweave had a strong presence at this year's GA, despite having suffered the loss of one of our usual two workshop slots. Our banner was proudly carried (and loudly cheered!) amongst the many banners of the opening Banner Parade. We passed out literature, sold t-shirts and banquet tickets, and chatted with many attendees at our booth in the Exhibit Hall. We held our annual reception, banquet, and worship service, with much success. And we presented the Mark deWolfe Award to a very worthy recipient. See the stories below for more on these events!

None of Interweave's GA events would have been possible without the work done by all the members of Interweave Continental's Board, and the work done by Amanda Schuber, our GA coordinator. Thank you! Thanks also goes to Interweave member Mark Westergard, who was our local Fort Worth "on the ground" contact person.

See you at next year's General Assembly!

Reception

This year's reception was held Friday afternoon in the Ballroom/Young Adult space at the Radisson Hotel, an elegant yet relaxing setting. Interweave members and friends were treated to yummy finger foods and iced tea, as well as the opportunity to meet other queer-friendly Unitarian Universalists. The conversation was lively and interesting, and the time to chill out with other folks during the hustle and bustle of GA was appreciated. Many many thanks to the Young Adults, who let us use their space for the reception!

Banquet

This year's banquet was another fabulous event. The generous and welcoming folks of 8.0, the restaurant, graciously opened their doors for us and provided a Mexican feast. A real southern treat! Everyone had a chance to meet old friends and new in the comfortable surroundings. After lunch, Interweave President Jonalu Johnstone introduced this year's Mark deWolfe award winner, Trish

▼
General Assembly, pg 4

...is a newsletter published six times a year by the organization Interweave Continental, Unitarian Universalists for Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Concerns.

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The Editor welcomes contributions to future issues. Please send submissions to either of the above addresses.

Final deadline for submissions for the next issue, October/November, is September 15th. Please send material as early as possible in order to preserve the Editor's sanity!

Please send changes of address to either of the above addresses.

If you would like to receive *InterweaveWorld* electronically, in a PDF format, please e-mail the Editor at mountaingirl@vtlink.net.

Get in Touch...

...with Interweave

Our website: www.uua.org/interweave

Our e-mail list: go to <http://lists.uua.org/mailman/listinfo/interweave-d>

Our e-mail list for chapters: go to <http://lists.uua.org/mailman/listinfo/interweave-chapterleaders>

Contact a Board Member: listed on page 9. Check out our portfolios to see who to direct your question to.

...with the UUA

The UUA website: www.uua.org

The UUA Office of of BGLT Concerns' website: www.uua.org/obgltc

Words from the President

by the Rev. Jonalu Johnstone

Another General Assembly (GA) has come and gone. Fine workshops, stirring worship, challenging and comforting words, great new music, connecting with new friends and long-time companions. And a few bumps along the road.

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Board of Trustees and the GA Planning Committee are considering changes for affiliate organizations. Affiliate organizations are groups of people which are not congregations – groups like Interweave – some based around an issue, others based around a theological stance or affinity group. In recent years the UUA Board has basically rubber-stamped approval of these groups without asking hard questions about how they serve the Association and the congregations.

They are starting to ask these questions. The GA Planning Committee is asking hard questions about how workshop slots and other GA resources are used by affiliates. I believe, as I'm sure you do, that Interweave can demonstrate its service to the Association and to congregations. I don't believe that our status will be at risk. Many of our GA activities are independent of workshop slots, but we may be affected by some of the decisions that are being made.

Interweave has received word that we have been accepted for another year as an affiliate organization. The questions being raised, though, are important for the overall Association, and you may be hearing more about them. If you have thoughts about the status of affiliate organizations, talk with members of the UUA Board of Trustees. Every district has a trustee; you can find out who yours is at the uua.org website.

You may also have heard of concerns about racism expressed by youth of color at General Assembly. The specifics of the incidents are unclear to most people, but as an organization striving to be anti-racist and to reach out to young people, it's a good time to remember our commitments and consider how we fulfill them. We know something about privilege and about oppression. As BGLTQ people, we have been oppressed and understand something of those dynamics. Many of us have experienced various kinds of privilege, too – privilege as male, or as white, or as well-educated, able-bodied, or middle or upper class. We need to broaden and deepen our experiences to better understand other categories of oppression and privilege.

We are bound to stumble and fall, to make horrible mistakes, to hurt one another's feelings, and to be hurt ourselves. And that is good; that will mean that we are doing the work.

President's Column, from pg 2

More than that, though, we need to be in touch with our own experiences and identities and how they have affected us, and learn from the experiences and identities of others and how they have been affected. We will listen and observe and share. And as we do these things, we are bound to stumble and fall, to make horrible mistakes, to hurt one another's feelings, and to be hurt ourselves. And that is good. Because that will mean that we are doing the work.

We need, too, to continually analyze the structures we work within – by-laws, policies, traditions, and informal practices – to consider how they work for people of all kinds. Ultimately, the hard emotional and spiritual work against oppression will lead to deepening relationships and reconciliation. But it will never be easy.

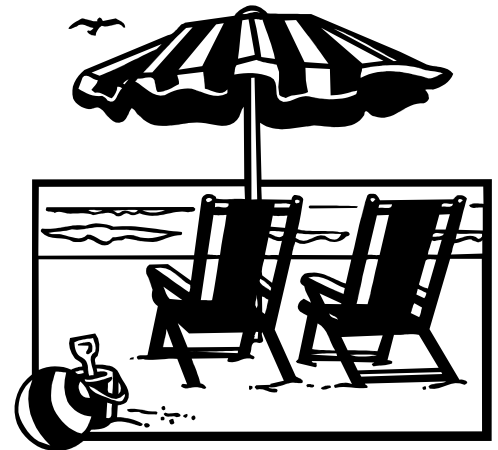
Jonalu Johnstone is the President of Interweave Continental. She lives in Oklahoma.

Convocation 2006!

The 21st annual Interweave Continental Convocation (Convo) will be held February 24-26, 2006, in Clearwater, Florida. This year's theme is *Accepting Ourselves, Accepting Each Other*. Convo is a time to come together, meet new friends and old, worship, relax, learn, conduct Interweave business, and connect with other BGLTQ and allied Unitarian Universalists – Convo 2006 will offer opportunities to explore personal, political, and spiritual issues amid the beauty and warm weather of Florida in February. Mark your calendars, and come join us!

Our host Interweave chapter's congregation – the Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater – is located near Tampa on the southwest coast of Florida. It is easily accessible from both the Tampa International Airport, and the St. Petersburg/Clearwater Airport. Many hotels and restaurants are close by, and the church is 30 to 45 minutes from the beach.

More detailed information will be available in the next issue of *Interweave World*, but in the meantime you can contact Janice Carney at jjcarney@verizon.net, or 727.430.2501, for more info – or visit Clearwater's website at www.uuclearwater.org.



Are You Musically Inclined?

Now Forming - The EveryNationPraise! Worship Band and Choir!

A multi-cultural, multi-racial, inter-faith, inter-denominational, straight-friendly group of GLBT Musicians, Artists and Songwriters are coming together in Kentucky. Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender (and even Straight) people are found in Every Tribe, Every Tongue, and Every Nation around the world. EveryNationPraise! seeks to be a reflection of that International Diversity, while "celebrating" Faith and our Freedom to Worship. The music, like each of us, will be diverse, reflecting many faiths

and cultures, as we endeavor to honor God, our Creator.

Rehearsals will begin in October 2005 in preparation for tentative tour dates in 2006 and 2007. An Open Call is being issued for vocalists and musicians of all types as well as those interested in production and sound. An informal, informational meeting and sign up for auditions will be held August 11, 2005, 7:00 p.m. at Third Lutheran Church, 1860 Frankfort Ave., Louisville, Ken-



tucky. For more information, please contact organizational coordinators and directors Ron Viers at 502.380.6512 or Aletha Fields at 502.262.4272, or email us at: EveryNationPraise@odcma.com.

EveryNationPraise! is an Inclusive, Affirming, Christian-based, GLBT organization that welcomes Diversity and does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, ability, or socio-economic status. Visit www.odcma.com for more info.

General Assembly, from pg 1

Kolodney, who was unable to stay for Monday's plenary session when the award would be "officially" given.

Then came the Revs. Dawn Sangrey and Kay Greenleaf, two Unitarian Universalist parish ministers in the New Paltz, NY area, who were our keynote speakers. They told the wonderful story of officiating at same sex weddings in New Paltz (after the mayor, Jason West, started the ball rolling) and being arrested and charged for their troubles. With humor and insight, they described their experiences with the hundreds of couples they married, their lawyer from New York City, and what it was like to be in front of a judge as "two old lady ministers." All charges were eventually dropped. The banquet attendees were grateful to Dawn and Kay for telling their story, and for being to be in the forefront of the marriage equality fight.

All in all, a marvelous event.

Worship

The Rev. John Millspaugh, the 2005 Interweave sermon award recipient, moved the gathered congregation on Monday morning with *Spiritual Risk-Taking*. His cross-country bus trip to raise awareness about marriage equality began with a simple telephone call, offering one of those "opportunities" we are often anxious to avoid. Rev. Millspaugh's personal story-telling demonstrated how the bus trip touched lives of clerks in convenience stores and even protesters. Laughter and tears combined. He left us with a challenge to take the risks we need to in our own lives. Rev. Millspaugh, who serves as parish minister of the Unitarian Universalist



The Rev. Jonalu Johnstone, Interweave President, "officially" presents the Mark deWolfe Award in Monday's plenary session, above left. A crowd of happy lunchers at 8.0, the Interweave banquet site, above right.

photos by Dana Dwinell-Yardley

Church in Mission Viejo, in Orange County, California, received a \$500 award. Thanks to UniUniques for the loan of a chalice and to the Rev. Mark Christian for music. Read subsequent newsletters for information about next year's sermon award, so you can submit a winning sermon.

Mark DeWolfe Award

Named for the late Canadian minister, one of the trailblazers of BGLT advocacy among Unitarian Universalists, the Mark Mosher DeWolfe Award honors a Unitarian Universalist (UU) who continues to live out the legacy Mark DeWolfe left us (see facing page for a list of previous recipients).

This year's recipient was Patricia Kolodney from the First Unitarian Universalist Church in Houston. Trish heard the stories of teenagers who were gay and lesbian and could not let them go. For fourteen years, she has worked tirelessly for the Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H), the outreach to Houston BGLT and questioning teens, moving the group from a grassroots peer support group to a 501(c)3

organization nationally recognized for its life-saving work. She has served H.A.T.C.H as Board member, President, and Co-Director. She has written grants, facilitated training, presented workshops and talks, educated, raised awareness. But most of all, she has listened to the stories of teens and shared them, learning from the experience of the teenagers themselves, advocating for them, and yes, loving them.

What's really telling is that every person who knew Trish and was consulted about this award said she really deserves it. We were pleased to present the award to Trish Kolodney this year in recognition of her much-needed work with an often neglected group of people.

We should mention, as well, that First Unitarian Church in Houston willingly and lovingly opened its doors to H.A.T.C.H at a time when awareness of the needs of BGLTQ teens was far less. UUs like Trish and her congregation help to transform lives. If you

Pride Rainbow Project brings rainbow banner to Ottawa

by Elizabeth Bowen

want to see more of what H.A.T.C.H is up to, check out www.hatchyouth.org.

We conferred the award at the Sunday banquet, because Trish had to return to Houston. We also presented it to a member of her congregation during the final day's plenary session.

This article was co-written by Jane Dwinell, Dana Dwinell-Yardley, and Jonalu Johnstone.

[Ed. note: The Pride Rainbow Project was started in Fall 2003 by 4 youth from the Unitarian Church of Calgary. The project is designed to show support for same-sex marriage in Canada and elsewhere. It is a fabric rainbow banner approximately 5 feet wide, and the goal is to make it 3.2km (2 miles) long. The Pride Rainbow Project Committee is currently made up of 5 youth from the Unitarian Church of Calgary, some of whom identify as GBLT and some of whom do not. For more on the Pride Rainbow Project, go to www.priderainbowproject.com.]

The Calgary Five brought their homemade 500-foot banner to Ottawa in style the weekend of June 18, 2005. The Youth from the Calgary Unitarian Church were joined by youth, members and friends of Ottawa First at Sunday's service. They carried a 250-foot section of the banner through the aisles of Worship Hall to sounds of "Enter, Rejoice, and Come In" and "We Are a Gentle Angry People."

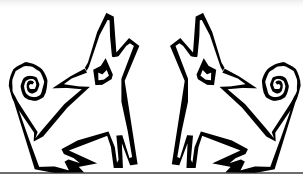
About 150 people gathered on Parliament Hill in the afternoon. Many helped carry the 500-foot banner onto the Hill; others carried signs and banners. The Wedding Bell Choir conducted by Jane Perry, Music Director, Ottawa First, sang as the banner circled an expanse of the Parliament Hill lawn. It was a wonderful and colourful sight. Unitarians and Universalists from Kingston, North Hatley, Fredricton, Peterborough, Ottawa Fellowship and Congregation mingled with Canadians for Equal Marriage (CEM) members as well as members and friends of other faiths.

Ottawa First's Minister, Brian Kopke, introduced the afternoon's speakers. Unitarian participants included Kathy Sage, Minister, Kingston Unitarian Fellowship (KUF); Carole Martignacco, Minister, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of North Hatley; Leela Sinha, Intern Minister in Ottawa; and Jean Phleiderer, KUF member and Canadian Unitarian Council Trustee. Ministers of Ottawa's First United Church and St. John's Anglican Church, and Caroline Balderston Parry, Society of Friends (Quakers) Ottawa Monthly Meeting represented their faiths. Other speakers were Alex Munter, National Coordinator, CEM and Jeremy Dias, a University of Ottawa student who filed a human rights complaint against his high school which had prevented him from starting school programs to encourage a more positive environment for non-heterosexual students. He used his settlement to start the LGBTQ Scholarship Fund to award to students who fight sexual discrimination. A spontaneous collection raised several hundred dollars for the Fund.

The greatest applause of the afternoon greeted the Calgary Youth. They thanked Canadian Unitarian Council members for their support and spoke elegantly about the Pride Rainbow Project and their determination to encourage Members of Parliament to pass the equal marriage bill.

MARK DEWOLFE AWARD WINNERS

- 1996 ▼ JOE NORTON
- 1997 ▼ ED KOBEE
- 1998 ▼ FRANK ROBERTSON
- 1999 ▼ LORNA CRAMER
- 2000 ▼ AL USACK
- 2001 ▼ JERRY KNASEL
- 2002 ▼ STAN CALDER
- 2003 ▼ LORI STONE-SIRTOSKY
- 2004 ▼ GARY CHALMERS AND RICHARD LINNELL, LINDA DAVIES AND GLORIA BAILEY, ROBERT COMPTON AND DAVID WILSON, AND HILLARY GOODRIDGE (THE 7 UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST PLAINTIFFS IN THE MASSACHUSETTS EQUAL MARRIAGE CASE)
- 2005 ▼ PATRICIA KOLODNEY



Chapter Chatter

gatherings and good works, joys and concerns, questions and support from Interweave Chapters, for Interweave Chapters

from Tampa, FL...

Our chapter, though young, has some significant accomplishments to boast of. We have grown to a membership of 23 church members and friends, and associated with us on our email list are another 6 people (though some of those have not been coming regularly to the meetings).

We have established contact through our service committee – and recent Hillsborough County events – with Equality Florida, and Nadine Smith, executive director of Equality Florida, will give the sermon on July 31. We will be pursuing future networking with many contacts in various organizations, stemming from our participation in the Martin Luther King Day Parade, the local Tampa Bay AIDS Walk, and most recently, our participation both as an Interweave Chapter and a Church in the recent Protest March in downtown Tampa protesting the county commissions passing 5-1 an edict that prohibits any county supported agency or organization from doing anything that may portray homosexuality in a positive way. (For details on this issue you can see the extensive information on Equality Florida's web page, <http://eqfl.org/>) This fight is not over yet and we will be involved in trying to overturn and remove the offending bigots. This will not be easy as their districts are spiritually and democratically challenged areas.

We also gave a service on June 19 on Interweave as a new church organization with very inspirational presentations from our members, allied, gay, and lesbian (we currently have no self-identified transgender members and none of our bisexual members came forward to participate). It was very well received and is still mentioned in conversation some 2 weeks later.

There is much to do, and competition for attention and time with the many ministries of this church can be difficult. We are doing well and being well supported by our church family.

Next meeting we will be talking about a member's recent trip to Massachusetts and her experiences there after a long absence with the changes in culture there. We will be recapping the Protest, and discussing future activities we will want to support.

*Jonathan Roudabush
Secretary, Interweave at UUCT*



The Interweave Chapter of Tampa, FL, at a recent protest march in downtown Tampa.

*photo courtesy of
Jonathan Roudabush*

BGLTQQ Youth Resources Updated and Available

It's been ten years, and our resources "A Loving Community: Welcoming BGLQQT Youth Into YRUU" and "A Resource for Youth Who Are BGLQQT" were due for an update – and here it is! Updates to both resources are now available on our online resources page: www.uua.org/YRUU/resources/online.

Many thanks to former Youth Program Specialist Jason Lydon who put in many hours of hard work updating these resources. The resource for BGLQQT youth is now in a cool "zine" format: for that reason, it may take a second or two to download – be patient!

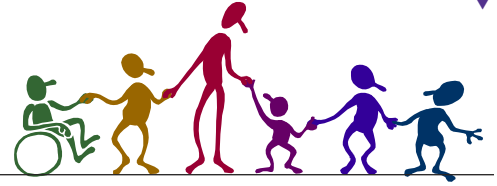
Many thanks,

The Youth Office

**Deadline for next issue of InterweaveWorld:
September 15!**

Interweave Chapters

Affiliated groups across the continent



Old Pueblo Interweave
UU Church of N.W. Tuscon
Tuscon, Arizona

Interweave
Unitarian Universalist Church
Little Rock, Arkansas

Interweave
UU Fellowship of Fayetteville
Fayetteville, Arkansas

Interweave
Live Oak UU Congregation
Goleta, California

Welcoming Congregation
UU Church of Berkeley
Kensington, California

Interweave
First Unitarian Church of Los Angeles
Los Angeles, California

Interweave
Monte Vista UU Congregation
Montclair, California

Peninsula Interweave
UU Churches of Palo Alto, Redwood City
and San Mateo, California

Interweave
UU Comm. Church of Santa Monica
Santa Monica, California

Central Denver Interweave
First Unitarian Society of Denver
Denver, Colorado

Interweave of UUFBR
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Boca Raton, Florida

Interweave
Unitarian Universalist Church
Clearwater, Florida

Interweave
UU Church of Gainesville
Gainesville, Florida

Interweave
UU Church of Jacksonville
Jacksonville, Florida

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UU Church of Tampa
Tampa, Florida

Interweave of Urbana-Champaign
UU Church of Urbana-Champaign
Urbana, Illinois

Heartland Interweave
UU Church of Indianapolis
Indianapolis, Indiana

Interweave
First Unitarian Church
Des Moines, Iowa

Interweave of UUSIC
UU Society of Iowa City
Iowa City, Iowa

Interweave
Manhattan Fellowship
Manhattan, Kansas

Interweave
First Unitarian Church
Louisville, Kentucky

Interweave
UU Congregation of Columbia
Columbia, Maryland

Interweave
North Parish
North Andover, Massachusetts

Interweave
First Universalist Church
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Interweave
Unity Church – Unitarian
Saint Paul, Minnesota

Interweave
UU Church of Columbia
Columbia, Missouri

Interweave in the Ozarks
First UU Church
Springfield, Missouri

Interweave of Metropolitan St. Louis
(congregation N/A)
St. Louis, Missouri

Interweave
Unitarian Society of East Brunswick
East Brunswick, New Jersey

Interweave
The Unitarian Society in Summit
Summit, New Jersey

Interweave of UUCWC
UUC at Washington Crossing
Titusville, New Jersey

UUFBI Interweave Committee
UU Fellowship of Bellport
Bellport, New York

Gay Straight Alliance
First Unitarian Congregational Society
Brooklyn, New York

Interweave Committee
UU Congregation at Shelter Rock
Manhasset, New York

Interweave
Unitarian Church of All Souls
New York, New York

Interweave
UU Fellowship at Stony Brook
Stony Brook, New York

ERUUF Interweave
Eno River UU Fellowship
Durham, North Carolina

Interweave
UU Fellowship of Winston-Salem
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Interweave/Northeast Ohio
West Shore UU Church
Cleveland, Ohio

Interweave
First Unitarian Church of Columbus
Columbus, Ohio

Welcoming Congregation Task Force
Main Line Unitarian Church
Devon, Pennsylvania

Three Rivers Interweave
First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Interweave
Westminster Unitarian Church
East Greenwich, Rhode Island

Interweave Chapter
UU Fellowship
Greenville, South Carolina

Spartanburg UU Interweave
UU Church of Spartanburg
Spartanburg, South Carolina

Interweave
Unitarian Church of Norfolk
Norfolk, Virginia

Interweave
UU Congregation of Blacksburg
Blacksburg, Virginia

Interweave
Fox Valley UU Fellowship
Appleton, Wisconsin

Interweave
Unitarian Church North
Mequon, Wisconsin

Interweave
First Unitarian Society
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

★ indicates a Chapter featured in
this issue's Chapter Chatter

Tranzworld

Misread

by Rik Fire

Last month my son and I had the opportunity to attend General Assembly (GA) in Fort Worth, Texas. Unfortunately, my fiancé's mother had a stroke, so my fiancé had to remain in Sweden and was unable to join us. I've only missed one GA (last year) since 1998.

While there's many things to talk about regarding GA, I'll do my best to stay on the topic of being misread. Interweave hosted a get-together in the Young Adult suite. The food was nice, and I got to catch up with my friend, Ben, who I hadn't seen since GA 2002 in Canada. I ended up in a conversation with a few folks and this one gentleman was so thrilled to meet other queer Unitarian Universalists (UUs). He had never heard of Interweave, or UUs for Polyamory Awareness. He was very excited to be meeting people from both groups at the reception. He looked down at my ring finger where I happened to be wearing a silver band, which by the way, is not a wedding band or commitment ring. While I am engaged and handfasted, my fiancé is the one with the sparkling rock on her ring finger, not me. It's just a ring I wear sometimes. So, he says to me, "Is your partner here?" I explain she's not with me and why. By this point he's very confused because he had read me as a gay man.

Then, since we're also with polyamorous people in the group, he begins talking to me about how my fiancé might like to try hooking up with a woman, and he begins flirting with

me, like he's going to get some action since I was there alone. Whoa!

I let him know that I had been poly for many years and was very happily monogamous these days, and I ignored the comments about what my fiancé might like, as I know what she likes and it's none of his business. As I fled from the interaction, I indicated I needed to get to the day camp to pick up my 10-year-old son, which floored him further, as it was clear he thought I was much younger than 36 (and I know it was beyond his worldview that I was trans and had given birth to my son).

I had a similar experience, minus the flirtation (or so I think), at the Interweave luncheon, where I sat with three non-trans men. I decided to have fun and I came out. They were very polite, but I read people well and they were shocked too. In line to get food, I got "Ohhh, so you're Rik Fire. I read your column." A fellow UU transman who has never read the column, has of course, heard about the infamous phallus column (*Interweave World*, Aug./Sept. 2004) and everywhere I went I had the fun experience of meeting people for the first time that have been readers of Tranzworld and I could hear "Here comes Mr. Phallus," as I entered the room.

The last experience is not related to GA and just happened yesterday. I took my son to apply for a passport and was dreading the experience as the experience of getting mine back in January was difficult enough. I was prepared to have to come out and have people stare or worse. I was prepared to be refused with some paperwork excuse and had already consulted with my attorney and told him I might need him to accompany

me, if I was not successful.

I stepped up when it was my turn and the postal clerk asked for my paperwork. He asked, "And the mother?" I said "The other parent." and handed him the notarized affidavit that my son's other parent had completed, which clearly stated it was signed by "the father." On my child's application, there were only lines for "mother" and "father," so I just listed my information under "mother." He then said "And your identification, Mr Fire?" – which is my driver's license (which is "M"), and my son's birth certificate (which does not list parents) – then told me how much to write a check out for. He didn't even ask to see the custody order, which I dutifully brought. I then had to sign the application next to where the clerk marked "father" and that was it! He was very nice to both me and my son and said "Safe travels" as we left. He completely played off any shock or misunderstanding and I guess he thought we were two gay men who adopted a child or something. I know he didn't know the truth, that's for sure.

The best part is my son didn't blink an eye, had no idea about my anxiety or what might have happened. He's just excited because there's a gold seal on the passport he's getting. Just like any other 10-year-old. I had tears in my eyes and texted my fiancé with this tale.

I remind readers to **assume nothing**. Safe travels this summer.

Rik Fire is a female-to-male (ftm) queer transman and a regular columnist of Tranzworld. Rik lives in Pennsylvania, where he facilitates an Interweave chapter at the Bux-Mont UU Fellowship.

Membership Form

Membership Categories★

- Basic \$35 US
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- Low Income \$20 US
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Chapter size: less than 10 people 10-25 people over 25 people

Fill out, enclose payment, and mail to: Interweave, 45 State Street #380, Montpelier, VT 05602.

***Canadian Residents** – Send equivalent in Canadian funds to: Interweave, c/o Canadian Unitarian Council, B018-1179 King Street West, Toronto ON, M6K 3C5. Please send only US funds to the Montpelier address.

The fine print: *Membership indicates that you are in sympathy with the Principles and Purposes of the Unitarian Universalist Association, as stated in Interweave Continental's bylaws. Interweave Continental is a United States 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, therefore, dues and contributions are tax deductible, as allowed by US and Canadian codes!*

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Last Word



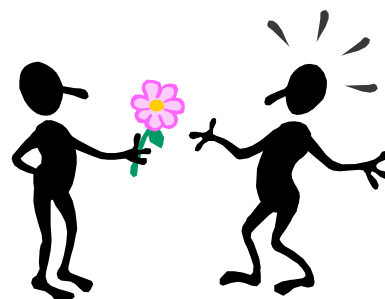
“At a time when President Bush and so-called faith leaders are working to enshrine discrimination in our state and federal constitutions, the United Church of Christ has issued a prophetic call challenging Americans to live up to the truth that the signers of the Declaration of Independence found to be self-evident...”

—Matt Foreman, Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, regarding the UUC’s overwhelmingly passing a resolution on July 4 supporting same-sex marriage.

Many thanks to our contributors
who made this issue possible...

Elizabeth Bowen, Jane Dwinell, EveryNationPraise!,
Rik Fire, Jonalu Johnstone, Jonathan Roudabush,
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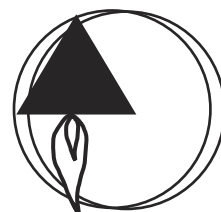
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