

InterweaveWorld

Vibrant Threads from Unitarian Universalists for Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Concerns

Summer 2007

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 of Congregations, 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.**

In This Issue...

- ▼ President.....pg 2
- ▼ From the OBGLTC.....pg 3
- ▼ Powerful Poem.....pg 4
- ▼ Interweave News.....pg 5
- ▼ Summer Fun.....pg 6
- ▼ Chapter Chatter.....pg 7
- ▼ Aging and Convo.....pg 8
- ▼ Join Us.....pg 9
- ▼ Last Word.....pg 10

Why Work for BGLT Rights?

by Cynthia Worthen

Editor's note: This article was originally presented as a personal testimony in a worship service at the Evergreen Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Marysville, Washington on April 1, 2007. In the interest of space, it has been edited from the original.

Our Interweave group, WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) was born out of concern that Evergreen provided a lot of lip service but not a lot of action to being a Welcoming Congregation. One day a group of well intending individuals got together and started creatively thinking how to make our liberal voice heard in Snohomish County and to prove we are, indeed, a church with integrity that wants to actively be a Welcoming Congregation for all who enter. Simply saying we are "welcoming" isn't enough.

Causes, groups, organizations, foundations. There are so many that need our help. How does one decide what to support and what to turn away from? Why did I decide to take on BGLT issues when so many other things seem more important?

I was listening to National Public Radio and someone asked why more people aren't rioting in the streets over the war in Iraq. Why are people so silent and not outraged? The commentator's answer was simple: no draft. We have a false sense of security. If the draft were instituted tomorrow, and the government came to take our young sons and daughters you bet people would be marching in the streets and all hell would break loose.

After my divorce, I was drafted. My sense of security was gone when the judge declared our marriage over.

Ten percent of our population's civil rights are being violated. This is the twenty-first century and still, Americans everywhere are being discriminated against because of their sexual orientation! What if every married couple were told tomorrow that their love and commitment to each other was invalid? What if your child needed medical treatment and because you were not the biological mother or father you were turned away and your child lay alone and helpless in the ER? And imagine for a moment that your beloved life partner is at death's door and you are banned from visiting the hospital bed because you are not "family." Then imagine having no say in your partner's final arrangements, knowing he or she wanted to be buried in the little cemetery the two of you picked out, but the "family" chooses to cremate and take the ashes across the country. There are **one thousand one hundred and thirty-eight federal laws** that apply to a heterosexual couple that are not extended to a gay couple.

I was drafted. I have no false sense of security anymore. The fight is on my soil now. Being bisexual isn't my choice. My sexual orientation was decided before I was born. I am the same person no matter who my next partner will be. If my next life partner happens to be a man I will automatically be granted 1,138 privi-

see Testimony, page 7

InterweaveWorld ...

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Dana Dwinell-Yardley, Editor
45 State Street #380
Montpelier, VT 05602
mountaingirl@vtlink.net

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- ▼ Please send changes of address to either of the above addresses. If you would like to receive *InterweaveWorld* as a PDF, please e-mail the editor.

Join the Conversation

Our website: www.uua.org/interweave
Our e-mail lists:

General discussion: <http://lists.uua.org/mailman/listinfo/interweave-d>

Chapters: <http://lists.uua.org/mailman/listinfo/interweave-chapterleaders>

Bisexuality: <http://lists.uua.org/mailman/listinfo/interweave-bi>

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

UUA contacts

The UUA website: www.uua.org
The Office of of BGLT Concerns
Website: www.uua.org/obgltc
E-mail: obgltc@uua.org

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Words from the President

Why Support Interweave?

by the Rev. Jonalu Johnstone

More than once I have heard folks ask, “What do I (or we) get out of Interweave membership?” However, I’m not sure it’s the right question. The better question might be, “Does it matter to you that Interweave Continental exists?” Because, yes, many Interweave resources—Convo, General Assembly (GA) activities, website, and e-mail lists can be accessed whether or not you officially join Interweave. However, if no one joins Interweave, then those resources cease to exist.

It’s a little like church itself. You can go to worship services, religious education, participate in social action projects and lots of other things without joining or contributing to the church. Some people make that choice. But if everyone did, the church would not exist.

Interweave Continental matters. It matters because without our initial push, there would not be a Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Office of Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Concerns, which means there would not be a Welcoming Congregation program. Interweave

matters because when the UUA wants to know how particular issues affect queer people, they come to us to ask—for example, we’re involved in the Conversation on Ministry to and with Youth. Would BGLTQ people be well-represented in that important conversation if we weren’t there? Interweave matters because we are starting to offer to youth and young adults a vision of a world free of oppression as we extend ourselves more and more in work with youth and young adults. Interweave matters because we’re at work on a new curriculum on bisexuality that we hope to release at GA—recognizing that bisexuality may be the cutting edge for many of our churches which have rallied behind the cause of marriage equality, but need to take their thought and their walk deeper. Interweave, though all-volunteer, manages to keep pushing our churches, our association, and indeed, our culture in directions favorable to equality.

Interweave Continental matters because we have made important strides within UU congregations in the welcoming of BGLTQ people, and it matters because we have a lot further to go, and we need one another—in networking, in support, in inspiration—to get there.

So, the question is—do you want to be part of that working together with other UUs around these issues? If money is really an issue, I would urge you to ask for a waiver regarding part of the funds, but to maintain your membership. If there are three individuals who would otherwise have individual memberships, then that’s the cost of a chapter membership. Some chapters pass the hat to raise the membership dues; some do fundraising. A fortunate few are funded by their churches. For individuals who need a reduced rate, we have a low income membership.

What Interweave does matters; and what you all are doing as grassroots members of Interweave matters. We are making the world a better place.

Jonalu Johnstone is president of Interweave Continental. She lives in Oklahoma City.

*Does it matter to you
that Interweave
Continental exists?*

From the UUA's Office of BGLT Concerns

This and That, and More of That

by the Rev. Keith Kron

In the Tampa Bay area of Florida, our ministers have taken the lead on supporting a transgender city manager. Led by the ministers in St. Petersburg (Rev. Manish Mishra) and Clearwater (Rev. Ahbi Janamanchi), Unitarian Universalists supported Steve Stanton, city manager in Largo, who was outed as being a person about to transition in gender. The city fired him, but UUs there brought witness and support to Stanton and made lots of local news not only about what is right but also about how we live our faith. There were press conferences and a healing interfaith service. It was a great witness of Unitarian Universalism in action and a proud moment.

There was one thing that bothered me about our involvement in all of this: we do not have any resolutions that specifically call us to do work on transgender issues. All of our resolutions speak toward discrimination against bisexual, gay, and lesbian people. I keep hoping some folks (since I as staff can't) will take the initiative and institute an Action of Immediate Witness at General Assembly so we could officially be on record as supporting transgender people and issues. The incident in Largo would be an opportunity for this.

Bi/trans updates needed

The new Unitarian Universalist Association website is now up and already receiving major kudos for the redesign. Do check it out. We've hated seeing some of the changes that need to be made to some of our pages, but it is providing us with an opportunity to examine our pages—in particular, Bisexuality 101 and Transgender 102. Both pages have been excellent resources and both are in need of updating. If you have kind suggestions about things

that needed to be updated or changed on these or other pages, do drop us an email. We appreciate hearing from you.

Also of note: Barb Greve and I (with help from the terrific Rev. Sean Dennison) have been working on a more advanced trans workshop for people who mostly get the basics of transgender issues.

More revisions coming up

When I came into the Office as Director in 1996, my first task was to revise the Welcoming Congregation manual. The revisions came out in 1999, nine years after the original came out. Next year will be nine years since those revisions. I have heard from enough folks over the last year to make me think it is probably time to do this again. Someone else should take the lead on it, though, unfortunately for them, it would mean working with me on it. More details to come but if you have ideas, please send them to me.

Come to GA

General Assembly is coming soon. We may arrive and find that the Oregon legislature has voted on (and I hope passed) legislation in favor of nondiscrimination on sexual orientation and gender identity as well as civil unions. There will be great workshop and worship, and the local UU BGLT folks are planning a reception for us on Thursday evening. If you've not been to Portland before, it is one of the coolest and most progressive cities, complete with the best bookstore in the USA. It will be well worth the visit.

Cities worth living in

There was an article in a recent *Advocate* (March 27, 2007) about cities that were good places for BGLT people to live. My own home city of Lexington, Kentucky, was on the list.

So was Columbus, OH, Dallas, TX, Ferndale, MI, Ithaca, NY, Missoula, MT, Portland, OR, San Diego, CA, Santa Fe, NM, and Tucson, AZ.

What struck me was that in so many of these cities there are strong UU congregations, many of which were ahead of their time on BGLT issues. San Diego and Lexington were two of the models for what a Welcoming Congregation would look like when the program was designed in the 1980s. First Unitarian in Portland wrapped itself in red ribbon to support BGLT rights and made news before UUs were making news in our support of BGLT people. Missoula was part of the five UU congregations in Montana who became the first Welcoming State.

I could not help but wonder how much influence we had on these cities becoming more progressive. Our influence may not be directly evidenced, but we make more of a difference than we think we do.

A final note

Simona Munson, who has worked diligently for the Office and Identity Based Ministries over the last seven years, will graduate this spring with a master's degree in social work and will probably be moving on to other work. Simona has been an invaluable asset to the Office and she will be missed tremendously. Please take a moment to offer a word of thanks to her either at GA or via email (obgltc@uua.org). The Office has a reputation for providing good resources and that is in large part due to Simona and her willingness to go above and beyond to answer requests.

The Rev. Keith Kron is director of the UUA's Office of BGLT Concerns. He can be reached at kkron@uua.org

You Brought This On Yourself

by George Miller

This poem is dedicated to everyone in the LGBTQ community, especially those who have been brutalized like my daughter, who was hospitalized after being brutalized at Abu Ghraib High School in America's Most Livable City, Naperville, IL.

They found her
They found her at the bottom of the stairs
And she had blood on her face and tears on her cheeks
And three football players
Anointed, appointed, and baptized by the Church of Latter Day Hate
Pushed her down a flight of stairs because she was gay.

The teachers in their glass closets counted their pay and looked and looked and
looked

The other way.
The old principal told my daughter:
"We can't be of any help: you brought this on yourself."

So, my daughter came home later that evening and slit her wrist with a plastic
knife,

Ran out into the middle of the street looking for oncoming headlights so that she
could throw herself into darkness forever.

I didn't know what to do.

I'm a meek man, I'm a mild man, I have problems asking my server at Bob Evans
for extra cream in my coffee.

But I was engaged, I was enraged, I was paged by my conscience and I told my
daughter: "You push me in front of the next car because I would rather die
than see you suffer."

And she cried and we hugged, and she knew that I was by her side, on her side, and
she did not have to commit suicide.

And I became obsessed, an angel, a demon, as obnoxious as Tony Little selling his
exercise equipment or Matthew Lesko his books on government grants, because it's
wrong, it's wrong for the weight of the world to be on the shoulders of a fifteen-
year-old girl.

I mean she ain't Atlas: she can't shrug the world off her shoulders.
But I can help pushpushpush the world off her shoulders because I'm her father.

I mean, sir, if she were your daughter, what would you do?
And, sir, if she were your daughter, what would you do?
And Dick Cheney and Alan Keyes, if she were your daughter, what would you do?
Well, we know what you do, and that would be the wrong thing.

So, the next day I went to the principal's office, and I was armed:
Armed with ideals of justice, goodness, and decency.
And I had fire in my eyes and they looked at me pleadingly.
But the only thing I could tell them was this:
"I can't be of any help: you brought this on yourself."

*Originally read at a 2005 Pride Month worship service (coinciding with Father's Day)
put on by the Interweave chapter at the DuPage UU Church in Naperville, IL.*

News & More from Interweave

Mark deWolfe Award nominees wanted

Do you know a Unitarian
Universalist who has made a great con-
tribution toward improving the lives of
BGLTQ folk? Interweave honors such
a person every year with our Mark de-
Wolfe Award, and we are seeking nomi-
nees! Send ideas to Jonalu Johnstone at
jjohnstone@uuma.org. The deadline is
June 1, 2007.

New website coming soon

A group of five Interweave
Continental board members is work-
ing hard to create a new website for
Interweave. The site should be up in
mid-May. Visit the new site at
www.interweavecontinental.org.

Interweave merchandise now available online

Thanks to CafePress, we are now
offering t-shirts, baseball caps, tank
tops, and more—all sporting color-
ful variations of our logo. All proceeds
benefit Interweave! Check out our store
at www.cafepress.com/interweavec.

Convo 2008 in Denver

Several Colorado Interweave groups
are working together to host Convo
2008. Convo will be held in February at
the First Unitarian Church in Denver.
Specific dates will be announced soon.

New Board Members

A big welcome to our three new
Interweave Continental board mem-
bers: Don Hoppe of Louisiana, Jane
Hereth of Iowa, and Brenda Myers
of Massachusetts. Don has become
our new secretary, Jane will be doing
diversity, anti-oppression, and coalition-
building work, and Brenda is our new
chapters liaison.

Affirming All Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, Transgender & Queer UUs

Saturday Banquet, 6-9 pm

Come hear our Sermon Contest Winner & see Mark deWolfe Award presentation.
Location details & tickets at Exhibit booth.

Workshop 1

Bisexuality Curriculum for Adult Religious Education

Introducing new curriculum for becoming more welcoming & informed on Bisexuality
Thursday 2:45 - 4 pm, Room F151

Workshop 2

Crossroads:

A Discussion of Race & Sexual Identity

A discussion of similarities & differences that GLBT & People of Color face. Addressing racism within oppressed communities.

Friday 1 - 2:15 pm, Portland Ballroom 251



Stop by our booth
to get your ribbon,
buttons, t-shirts
& more!

General Assembly 2007!

Join Interweave at GA—June 20–24, in Portland, OR.

Not listed at left: the Portland UU BGLT group will be holding a **meet-and-greet** for queer and allied UUs, Thursday, June 21, 5:30–7:30 pm, at Hobo's (120 NW 3rd).

Be there!

Summer Renewal for Gay/Bi Men

by Ron Willett

The first few months of 2001 were a strain for me, as that time of year can be for any of us. I was working through some therapy around sexual and substance abuse issues, really trying to make it work, and I became intensely serious for too long. The work was important, moving away from old patterns, but it was tiring and heavy. When my friend Perry observed, “Man, you could really use some fun and laughter,” he was right on.

But how was that going to happen? No longer at ease with familiar acquaintances and situations, I simply didn't know how or where to be free and be truly me, relaxed and natural, as a gay man seeking safe recreation. I didn't feel like I fit with either gay or straight men, so the “men's gathering” scene was not inviting at all. What to do?

The answer, which led to valuable changes in my life, came from Perry: He introduced me to GAYLA, a week-long gathering each July where gay and bi men create a safe, fun-filled, affirming intentional community at the Ferry Beach Unitarian Universalist (UU) retreat facility on the southern coast of Maine near Saco. As a result, I have become a GAYLA repeater (I'll be back this July 14–21 for my seventh year!).

In a summer camp setting, GAYLA offers celebration, discovery, fellowship, and renewal among gay/bi men who are singled, partnered, younger, older, out, not out, or exploring. Activities (all are optional) include elements of play, laughter, listening, sharing, learning, reflecting, dancing, resting, and making friends.

Like many of my GAYLA brothers, I consider GAYLA to be a week of community and individual experiences that are difficult to define. The GAYLA experience joins me to a community of men finding and realizing joy around who we are, as we fly free of rigid and exhausted notions of what it is to be gay and bi.

While GAYLA is not church camp by any means, it is where I met the seven principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). GAYLA includes a gay UU clergyman each year and a totally optional morning meditation and service at Ferry Beach's outdoor chapel in the trees. There I began examining UUA tenets, eventually learning that UUs are my kind of folk, and I'm now an active member of the UU Church of Arlington, Virginia.

Now in its 29th year, GAYLA could be a turning point for you or a gay/bi man you know. GAYLA 2007 will happen July 14–20, with the theme *Embracing the Strengths of Men*. Registration is now open, but space is limited (single fee includes meals and lodging.) To register contact Ferry Beach at www.ferrybeach.org or 207-282-4489. For more information contact gayla_coordinators@cox.net, visit gayla.org, or contact me if you're in the DC area!

Ron Willett lives in Virginia. Contact him at rwillett@comcast.net.

Chapter Chatter

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

from Naples, Florida

At the Unitarian Universalist of Greater Naples we are having Food, Movie, and Discussion events. Average attendance is around 35—all of our BGLTQ folks and many straight allies from the congregation. We show movies with gay themes. Usually we have a lively discussion after the movie.

We get some gays from outside the congregation. The event is advertised in local gay papers at church expense. We generate a lot of good feelings about the Welcoming Congregation. We have had three of these events so far and have three more planned. They are once a month. The food—pizza—and wine is a great draw.

Jim Flagler

**Get groovy t-shirts.
Support Interweave.**

www.cafepress.com/interweavevc

from Venice, Florida

We are hosting a PFLAG gathering every third Thursday here at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Venice.

We're still showing movies and doing forums.

April 22nd was our first anniversary of becoming officially welcoming. We will be having a forum to discuss what people learned or were surprised by in the 10 workshops last year, any future requests, and how we did with our plan developed by the attendees of the final workshop. We'll also be asking: What do we do next? How do we keep Interweave of Venice vital?

Patrick G. Eaton

from Columbia, Missouri

The Unitarian Universalist (UU) Church of Columbia's Interweave chapter just observed its second anniversary. We honored famous BGLT UUs, but upon reflection, it became clear we neglected to celebrate the work of our chapter over the past year. Now is our chance!

Last winter the core group decided on five purposes for our chapter:

- ▼ Education about BGLT and related issues
- ▼ Socializing/networking
- ▼ Action and awareness regarding political or government actions or policies
- ▼ Outreach to other BGLT and allied groups
- ▼ Outreach to other congregations

A majority of our outreach is done with two local BGLT-related organizations, The Center Project and the Mid-Missouri LGBT Coalition. The Center Project is working to create a safe space in the community for BGLT people. The Mid-Missouri LGBT Coalition is an umbrella organization developed to facilitate communication and cooperation between like-minded groups in the community. Listed below are some of our collaborations:

The Center Project (TCP)

- ▼ TCP is the occupant of our church facility's Social Justice Office.
- ▼ Church member Carol Snively is an active member of TCP's board of directors.
- ▼ TCP was selected as our congregation's Faith-to-Action collection beneficiary in October 2006. Congregants donated over \$400 to benefit the group.
- ▼ Families united in the church kitchen one October evening to cut out and bake pet treats, helping TCP with one of their regular fundraising efforts.
- ▼ Folk singer Joni Laurence held a concert at the church in October to benefit TCP.
- ▼ In January 2007, Interweave hosted a brunch to meet the TCP members and to learn about their progress toward their goal of creating an BGLT-friendly community center.

The Mid-Missouri LGBT Coalition

- ▼ Our Reverend Bill Haney was elected to the Coalition's board of directors in February 2007, and Interweave chair Stephanie Dorman was elected Vice Chair of the Coalition's board in February 2007.
- ▼ Interweave has sponsored the Coalition's use of the church for several events, including a planning retreat for the board in November 2006, the Coalition's annual business meeting and chili supper in February 2007, Rainbow-licious! An All Inclusive LGBT Educational Forum in April 2007, and the Coalition's monthly education, outreach, and communications committee meetings.
- ▼ Interweave joined with the Coalition's Faith Based Outreach committee in an effort last spring to support the state-wide BGLT advocacy group,

see Chapter Chatter, page 7

Chapter Chatter, *from page 6*

PROMO, in their efforts to reach out to the faith community.

- ▼ On June 9, 2007, Interweave will continue its tradition of staffing the children's activity area at our community-wide PrideFest celebration, one of the functions of the Mid Missouri LGBT Coalition. We have been excited to hear our efforts have reportedly led to a more family-friendly atmosphere at PrideFest.

Within our church community, we are trying to live the Welcoming Congregation program. Intentional symbols and language have become part of our church's culture as evidenced by the rainbow chalice on our church's outdoor sign, the prominent placement of our Welcoming Congregation notice and our Interweave charter certificate in the foyer, numerous flyers and brochures throughout the space answering questions about UUs and BGLT folk, and advertisements for BGLT-friendly events in the larger community.

Interweave is creating a tradition of offering a lay-led service in October honoring National Coming Out Day. In October 2006 the service theme was Standing On the Side of Love. We are in the initial stages of planning the October 2007 service now.

Anonymous donors have offered the church \$2500 in matching funds to train instructors in Our Whole Lives (OWL), the human sexuality education program. Interweave member Dennis Murphy has created a line of Famous BGLT UU products to raise money to match this grant and to continue the Welcoming Congregation objective to support OWL. Walt Whitman, Susan B. Anthony, Clara Barton, and Herman Melville are the main features to date.

For our first anniversary celebration in April 2006, we held a reunion for the participants in the Welcoming Congregation workshop series, including our counterparts from the Jefferson City, Missouri UU Fellowship. For our second anniversary, church members were asked to find 12 Walt Whitmans placed around the church in a game of "Where's Walt?" They snacked on rainbow-colored candy and completed a focus group survey for the Famous BGLT UU product line.

As the academic year comes to an end, we are planning for the future. Do we need to re-offer the Welcoming Congregation workshops for our new members? Could we offer similar workshops to other faith-based communities? Will the Famous BGLT UU product line be successful? How can we promote it? These questions and more will help guide our efforts to continue as a Welcoming Congregation and a church-wide affiliate of Interweave.

Stephanie Dorman

from Tampa, Florida

Tampa Interweave Chapter has been active in what we here in Tampa Florida call Winter Pride. We had a booth and enjoyed a day of sunburn and heat, with many member allies and friends staffing the Interweave booth. There were thousands counted at the event. This has grown to quite a large event in Tampa since the Hillsborough County Commission action banning all county participation in anything that might "promote homosexuality."

It was a great day with a lot of exposure for our group and our church.

We plan to be an active part of our newly forming district Interweave group. We are planning to participate in Summer Pride in St. Petersburg this June. We will also be continuing with our summer service on GLBTQA issues.

I am proud to say that our interim minister Liz Brown and members from several local churches demonstrated support for Steve Stanton in Largo at the Commission hearing that lead to his firing for plans to transition from male to female. The arrest of Equality Florida's leader Nadine Smith occurred at the same meeting. The violent and unprovoked arrest of Nadine may require future action and support of our Interweave group. (Nadine is a friend and has spoken in our pulpit). I am proud of Liz's example and her public and vocal support for Steve. I'm proud of our Interweave community.

Jonathan Roudabush

Testimony, *from page 1*

legues that I will be denied if my next soul mate is female. This is wrong and this is unjust. And an injustice to one is an injustice to all.

It is as simple as marching to end segregation in Mobile, Alabama in 1967. It is as simple as demanding the vote for women in the early 1900s. It is as simple as the abolishment of slavery in 1883. The Bill of Rights ensures equality for all. Well, friends, please explain to me why, if we are all equal, is ten percent of this population still being denied their civil rights? Civil marriage is a civil right, and it takes a loving, passionate, and educated community to change laws. You see, when humanity comes to a level playing field and globally, all people are treated fairly, maybe we can all get past putting each other in opposite corners and categories and come together to really care about each other as brothers and sisters. It really is this simple. It begins with loving without barriers and equality for all. I honestly believe this world will change.

It begins with you and it begins with me.

Cynthia Worthen is a member of the Evergreen UU Fellowship.

Bi Space

BGLT Aging

by Alan Hamilton
and BobBI Keppel

Whether or not you are thinking about aging, some professionals in the field of aging are thinking about you. At this year's Joint Conference of the American Society on Aging (ASA) and the National Council on Aging in Chicago, March 2007, more than 4,000 professionals in the field of aging (some of them also aging professionals, like BobBI) chose among 900+ presentations about aging.

The Lesbian and Gay Aging Issues Network (LGAIN), a constituent group of ASA, put together a list of conference events addressing BGLT aging. On lavender paper (of course) the four page list included networking opportunities, presentations on cultural enrichment, consumer-driven long term care, living longer with HIV/AIDS, racism, innovative housing, research on boomers, end of life issues, building networks, creating resources, and BobBI's workshop: "Bisexual Competence in Counseling: Therapy and Other Services for Older Bisexual Women and Men."

A few gleanings:

- ▼ Both lesbian and gay elders do more caregiving than their straight counterparts.
- ▼ On average, lesbians are poor retirement financial planners.
- ▼ The partially edited film *Legacies* (advertised as BGLT) shows the realities of G, L, and T aging—no bis.
- ▼ LGAIN has not addressed the needs of queer elders in rural areas.
- ▼ Despite "BGLT" in workshop descriptions, very few are bi- or trans-inclusive. BobBI's Bisexual Competence workshop is, at most, the second bi workshop in LGAIN's 13 year history.

We truly appreciate the gallant folks who first came out publicly and started LGAIN. We also know we include a wider diversity of queer folks than are represented by "lesbian and gay" aging. Several of us have advocated for a change of name and scope for LGAIN, which is about to happen. By July 2007, the new name and

logo should be in place. A committee is forming to explore how the wider diversity of our aging communities can be adequately represented. We are also pushing for truth in advertising; that is, a conference or newsletter presentation can only be listed as BGLT if the contents actually address all four populations.

More information:

- ▼ BobBI's website (<http://home.gwi.net/~bobbik>) has a longer version of this article and the full text of her workshop.
- ▼ LGAIN and its newsletter (www.asaging.org/asav2/lgain/enews/07jan/toc.cfm).
- ▼ The Joint Conference on Aging site has the full list of events with descriptions of each (www.agingconference.org/asav2/conf/jc/jco7/).

BobBI Keppel and Alan Hamilton are dedicated UU bi activists and regular columnists of Bi Space. BobBI lives near Portland, ME; Alan, near Boston, MA.

Bi book is a Lambda Literary finalist!

Affirmative Psychotherapy with Bisexual Women and Bisexual Men, edited by Ron Fox, Ph.D., 2006, (and simultaneously released as Vol. 6, Nos. 1 and 2 of the *Journal of Bisexuality*) is a finalist for this year's Lambda Literary Awards. Unitarian Universalist chapter authors include Wayne Bryant, Amity Buxton, Julie Ebin, and Bobbi Keppel.

Small Groups Launched at Convo 2007

This year, for the first time ever, we added a more intimate small group ministry element to our annual Convocation weekend. The new format proved popular and successful. Interweave president Jonalu Johnstone wrote up the experience for the Small Group Ministry Network's newsletter. Here's just a taste.

How do you encourage and support deep connection among folks who come together for a weekend and may never see each other again? How do you draw newcomers into an established group that has met year after year? In short, how can you make a weekend workshop or conference better?

With small groups, of course.

For the last twenty-five years, Interweave Continental has held an annual Convo (short for "convocation"), inviting Unitarian Universalists from all over the continent to come together to consider issues of concern for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people. This year, as we reached out to bring in more young people, we added small groups to our schedule as a way to build connections and give attendees the chance to process their experiences.

For the full article, visit www.smallgroupministry.net.

Interweave Membership Form

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Interweave Board Members

Jonalu Johnstone, President

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
405.521.9815

jjohnstone@uuma.org

Steve Hollingsworth, Vice President

Chattanooga, Tennessee
imuu@comcast.net

Don Hoppe, Secretary

Baton Rouge, Louisiana
dhoppe2433@aol.com

Jeannie Owen, Treasurer

Joliet, Illinois
jo45@sbcglobal.net

Dana Dwinell-Yardley,

Communications
Montpelier, Vermont
mountaingirl@vtlink.net

Neil Gunderson, External Advocacy

Laurel, Montana
nkguua@cs.com

Alan Hamilton, Bylaws,

Policies, and Procedures
Somerville, Massachusetts
alan.hamilton@fmr.com

Allyson Diane Hamm,

Internal Advocacy
UU Church of the Lehigh Valley
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
allysondiane@hotmail.com

Jane Hereth, Diversity, Anti-

Oppression, and Coalition-Building
Grinnell, Iowa
herethja@grinnell.edu

Brenda Myers, Chapters

Somerville, Massachusetts
brendajmyers@comcast.net

Keith Kron, ex officio liaison

UUA – OBGLTC
508.740.1917
kkron@uua.org

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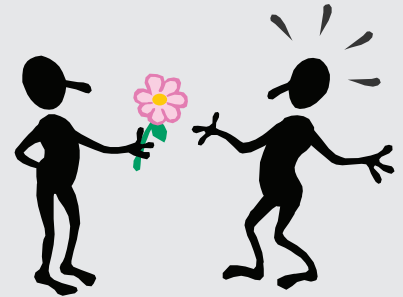
*I have come to believe over and over again,
that what is most important to me must be
spoken, made verbal and shared, even at the
risk of having it bruised or misunderstood.*

—Audre Lorde, 1934–1992, African-American
lesbian author, poet, teacher, and activist

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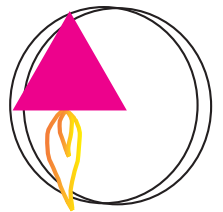
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