



Uniteen News

Vol. 3, Issue 3

September 2003

From the Editor

Dearest Uniteens & Uniteen Leaders,

As I hear the geese gathering in the morning for their journey south I realize that another summer is drawing to a close. For most of us that means a new school year and a new Sunday school year as well. You are all in my thoughts and prayers as you begin this new year, sharing your wonderful talents with your Uniteen groups.

We have an awesome responsibility and yet we are blessed with rewards beyond measure. Let us all thank God for new beginnings and for each opportunity to share our talents and to recognize and nurture the brilliant shining Christ Light in each of our Uniteens.

I hope you will find some helpful ideas and tools in this newsletter. Some of you have shared some great ideas about service, bridging & rites of passage over the past few months and I have passed them on through this newsletter. Please continue to share your events and ideas with me so I can in turn spread the word.

Blessings to each of you as you embark on this new year.

In Peace & Light,

Eileen Patra, Uniteen Consultant
Great Lakes Region

"Only Love Prevails"

Great Lakes Region

2003 Fall Unitreat

Circle of Light

Nov. 14-16, 2003

Ingleside, Illinois




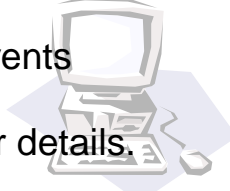
A weekend retreat for
Great Lakes Region Uniteens
in the 6th – 8th grade.

Join us as we celebrate the 6th Great Lakes regional unitreat. The unitreats provide a weekend retreat for Uniteens in grades 6-8 where they can spend some time with their own Uniteen group and meet other Uniteens throughout the region. The weekend offers opportunities to learn and practice Unity principles as well as plenty of time for fun & relaxation. There are crafts, sports, indoor & outdoor activities, music, and dance.

This is a great opportunity for Uniteen Leaders to take their Uniteens to a non-Sunday outing where the event is already planned. Just bring your teens and have fun right along with them.

See details inside, or register online at www.glruniteens.org. Registrations must be postmarked or filed online by Oct. 1st.

(After Oct 1st postmark an additional fee applies. No registrations will be accepted after the Oct. 8th postmark deadline.)

Uniteen Events		&	Uniteen Leader Training Calendar
2003	Sep. 27	 <p>“Lessons That Move” & “Leading From The Christ Within” Unity Church of Peoria, IL Facilitator: Eileen Patra, Uniteen Consultant Leader/Teacher/Sponsor Training focusing on “active learning” vs. “passive learning” using the Living Curriculum approach. We will also cover leadership skills for all areas of Youth Ministry including leadership in the classroom. Eileen Patra 248-399-4689 or Uniteens@qlruniteens.org</p>	
	Oct. 4	 <p>Youth Ministry Team Training Unity Church of Madison, WI Facilitators: Diane Venzera, Children’s Consultant Eileen Patra, Uniteen Consultant Training for all members of your youth ministry team Eileen Patra 248-390-4689 or Uniteens@qlruniteens.org</p>	
	Nov. 14-16	 <p>2003 Fall Unitreat YMCA Camp Duncan, Ingleside, IL A weekend retreat for Uniteens (Grades 6-8) and their leaders/chaperones. Uniteens must be in at least the 6th grade to attend. Cost: \$95/person by October 1st/\$105 after October 1st</p> <p>ONLINE REGISTRATION You may pre-register your Uniteen group online at www.qlruniteens.org and send payment and required forms within 5 days of pre-registration. (All required forms can be downloaded from the website – or you may call to have a packet mailed to you.</p> <p>PAPER REGISTRATION You may also register using the registration form on page 7. Registrations must also include current version medical release and Heart Agreements. These forms are available for download at www.qlruniteens.org or by contacting Eileen Patra at 248-399-4689 or Uniteens@qlruniteens.org</p>	
2004	Apr 30 – May 2	<p>2004 Spring Unitreat YMCA Storer Camps, Jackson, Michigan A weekend retreat for Uniteens (Grades 6-8) and their leaders/chaperones. Uniteens must be in at least the 6th grade to attend. Details & registration materials available in February, 2004.</p>	
		<p>Online Registration You can now register online for the training events on Sept. 27th & October 4th. Visit the Uniteen website at www.qlruniteens.org/page2.html for details.</p> 	



UNITEEN PROGRAM GUIDE PARTS 1 & 2

Association of Unity Churches.
1997 & 2003

The Uniteen Program Guide is an extremely thorough resource for the Uniteen Leader and for the entire youth ministry department. Along with an inexhaustible supply of information and resources, the guide also provides all the elements necessary for successful communications with the church, and parents.

There are sections covering Group Building, Communications, Behavior, Philosophy, Prayer & Meditation, Ceremonies, Lock-ins, Resources and “oh so much more”. Each section is laid out in way that resources and additional side notes are easy to find and understand.

The Group Building section offers ideas on how to help your group bond and explains why it is necessary to spend time doing such activities.

The Communications section provides a wealth of sample forms, flyers, & logos. Uniteens, moving from the Sunday school classroom to a more youth group like setting are likely to have more outings away from church and the section includes sample permission forms and medical releases for this purpose. Also included are record forms including attendance sheets which will come in very helpful in seeing that your Uniteens meet attendance requirements for regional events.

In the Behavior section there is information on how to manage your classroom and redirect undesirable behavior in a positive and nurturing way.

I think a guideline for creating a group Heart Agreement is one item that should be added

to this section. Although agreements are addressed, there is no guideline included for the creation process. (See p. 6) A Heart Agreement is a very effective tool in classroom management and should be created and signed by each classroom group. The agreement can then be reviewed from time to time, for instance when there are new members or the group seems to need to recommit to their agreements

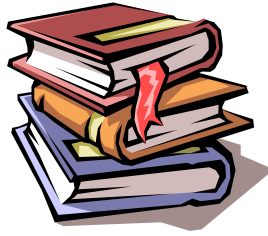
Part 2 of this guide was recently completed and continues to supply the Uniteen Leader with an abundance of materials and information. Included in Part 2 are some great ideas and resources for Ceremonies and Lock-ins including a collection of Unity ceremonies that should prove very helpful with your Uniteen group including resources for Rites of Passage. There is even a blank form to help you design your own ceremonies.

The hidden gem in Part 2 of the program guide is the section on Philosophy. It explains Basic Unity Principles and philosophies as well as Unity’s Living Curriculum approach to education. It includes up to date information on the different learning styles and how to incorporate them in the classroom. This wonderful explanation of Unity’s principles and educational philosophy should be the first chapter in all of the program guides.

If you are thinking about hosting an area wide event and inviting Uniteens from other churches, this guide will help you get started and direct you to where you can find more answers & information.

Of all the program guides for Unity youth ministries this is my favorite. Perhaps that is because I am a Uniteen Leader, but perhaps it is because of the wealth of material included and the ease with which I can find it. I think many parts of this guide are an essential resource whether you are working with Uniteens, Y.O.U. or children. No Unity youth ministry program should be without it.

- Eileen Patra



BOOK Review

“Conversations With God For Teens”
Neale Donald Walsch. Scholastic Inc. 2002.

Neale Donald Walsch, author of the very popular “Conversations With God” books has written this interview with God using questions submitted by teens from around the world. His purpose in writing this book is to give young people an opportunity to get in touch with their own feelings and by hearing the God inspired answers to teen questions, draw their own conclusions.

The questions range from issues of peer pressure, sex & dating, communicating with parents to “Why is the world the way it is?” and “What is the purpose of life?” The answers which were the first words that came to Mr. Walsch as he typed are thoughtful, honest and Divinely inspired. Mr. Walsch also annotates some of the answers with resources for additional reading on the subject.

I loved this book as much as I did the earlier Conversations with God books. I felt that God was speaking directly to me, answering my questions with answers I already knew in my heart. With a forward by Alanis Morissette and questions submitted by teens, I think this book speaks clearly and directly to the heart of any teen who encounters it. It is the sort of book many adults will say they wished they had read when they were teens.

I would recommend this book to parents and anyone working with teens. Because of the sensitive nature of some of the answers and because they may not reflect the views of all parents I would recommend it to parents first and hope that they choose to share it with their teens.

- Eileen Patra

NEW RESOURCES FOR UNITEEN LEADERS

Uniteen Program Guide Part 2
Association of Unity Churches. 2003
(See P. 3 for a review of Parts 1 & 2))

“The Universe Is Calling Me To Sing”
Association of Unity Churches. 2003

A music CD of new Unity music for youth programs has been released by the Association. The CD can be ordered separately or combined with a music book that includes sheet music and lyrics, including guitar chords. This is a wonderful tool, designed specifically for musically challenged teachers/leaders to bring music to their programs. Call Juli Ann Boehm at the Association 816-524-7414 for ordering details.

Coming Soon: Interactive Training CD
Association of Unity Churches.

In the works at the Association is a new, interactive training CD for new Uniteen Leaders and Sunday School Teachers. The CD is in the early development stages but will be a great “fast-start” tool for those new to the youth ministry team, especially when a training date is a long way off.

I am working on the CD with the Association so I will keep everyone posted on the development.

CEP Online

Feel the need to increase your own Unity foundation? Consider CEP classes locally, at Unity Village or the new online class: “The Creative Process In The Bible”.

Explore creativity, the biblical creation story, and the interpretations of Unity co-founder Charles Fillmore as you deepen your creative, spiritual self. Go to: www.unityworldhq.org/

In Service

Warming Center Support

The Uniteens & Y.O.U. from Unity of Royal Oak have supported the local warming center for homeless persons for the last several years.

Each year in Royal Oak , area churches host a warming center for those who are homeless and do not qualify for any type of permanent shelter. Each church in the program commits to 1-2 weeks of shelter during the winter months.

The warming centers are open from 7:00 p.m. till 7:00 a.m. and provide a warm and safe place to sleep but do not necessarily provide food or other support.

The Uniteens & Y.O.U. from Unity of Royal Oak decided to assist one of the warming center churches by providing food and clothing to the participants.

Each February, the teens ask the congregation to help them as they provide bagged lunches and new white socks for the homeless people at the warming center. This year they worked together to prepare 240 sandwiches, 120 juice boxes, 120 pieces of fruit, candy and snacks.

The Uniteens collected more than 150 pairs of socks. The Uniteens have used several methods to collect the socks including a drop box at the back of the church with a thermometer style counter and a Uniteen Movie Night for which the entry fee was a package of new white socks.

The project has given all the teens a sense of satisfaction in providing a service to those in need and has created an annual, intergenerational event. Church members of all ages get involved with collecting socks, providing food or funding and helping with preparation.

Animal Crackers

Unity on the Bay learned about a solution to hunger in the global community this summer through a program called "Animal Crackers".

The Heifer International Organization teaches designated families from the global community to be self-reliant through ecologically sound farming techniques and to Pass on the Gift they have received by giving the offspring of their animals to another family (and then teaching skills they have learned). The children saved money for 4 weeks and then based on what they accumulated chose an animal (chicken, rabbits, goats, etc.) for Heifer International to give to a family. Children reviewed maps, consulted the Bible, discussed diversity and came home with buttons and stickers provided by Heifer International.

The program, is an excellent lesson on giving and demonstrates Unity principles. Heifer international provides all the materials, including lesson plans

People of all ages will be challenged by this exciting program, which features five sessions for each age group on the topics of:

- Hunger and the Bible
- Animals
- People and their Needs
- Land and the Environment
- Passing on the Gift

For more information contact Heifer International at 800-422-0474 or visit www.heifer.org

Thank you Audrey Bloom, Youth Ministry Director, Unity on the Bay, Miami, FL

rites of Passage

IDEAS FOR RITES OF PASSAGE OR FLYING-UP CEREMONIES:

- “Light of God” Award Program
 - Use this award program booklet provided by the Association of Unity Churches for youth ages 11-13. Although designed as a scouting award, the program can be used by any Unity youth. They receive an award pin upon completion of the requirements. The pin is usually presented by the minister during the Sunday service.
- Welcome Gift
 - Y.O.U. or Uniteens present the incoming youth with a gift during the Sunday service. (i.e., friendship bracelet, bible, daily word, The Simple Truth, Y.O.U. membership card., etc.)
- Memory Item
 - Youth flying up to Uniteens presents the younger children with a stuffed animal or toy they no longer need as they move toward adulthood. The object is kept by the children’s class as a memento.
- Create your own Rites of Passage program
 - Design a list of requirements, such as service, prayer, self-study, etc. Present the teen with an award of your choice during a Sunday service. Involve the parents, younger children and older teens in the presentation.
- Uniteen Program Guide, Part 2
 - Check this newly published material for ideas and a blank form to help you design your own ceremony (P. CC-25)

Heart Agreement Essentials

Groups should be allowed to brainstorm on their own Heart Agreement. The leader/facilitator will need to guide them so that their list includes the basic elements of trust and respect listed below. As a leader you may include agreements that are important to you for the group and any agreements you feel necessary to maintain church policy.

Once the list is complete, each member of the group/class should sign the it, indicating their willingness to commit to the agreement.

1. Confidentiality. What is said here stays here (unless a the group member is in immediate danger. Group leader needs to inform group of their responsibility. If something is said that incates a youth may be in danger or a crime is being committed it is the leader’s responsibility to report this to their Minister and/or Youth Ministry Coordinator.)

2. No Put Downs. (Many groups include that a put down needs to be remedied by saying two nice things to the person offended)

3. Respect Self

4. Respect Others

5. Respect Our Room

6. No cross-talk/Interuptions or causing a distraction when someone else is speaking

7. No kicking, pushing or hitting

8. Respect personal space

9. Participate.

10. Right to pass. During check-ins, heart talks or discussions each person has the right to pass. This does however does not release them from the responsibility to participate.



Uniteen News

The Uniteen News is published quarterly and mailed to the Uniteen Leader at each church in the Great Lakes Region.

Deadlines for articles/ideas are March 1st, June 1st, Sep. 1st & December 1st.

Additional Subscriptions to the Uniteen News

The Uniteen News is published quarterly and mailed to the Uniteen Leader at each church in the Great Lakes Region. If you would like to receive additional copies please mail the form below with a suggested love offering of \$4.00 for postage & handling. Additional subscriptions are renewable on a yearly basis. Please fill out separate forms for each additional copy requested.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

_____ Love Offering \$ _____



Great Lakes Region Uniteens
423 S. Kenwood
Royal Oak, Michigan 48067
248-399-4689
Uniteens@glruniteens.org