

Unitarian Universalist perspective on human/animal interactions

Please join us for some exciting workshops regarding the Unitarian Universalist perspective on human/animal interactions. These interactive workshops will be held at three UU congregations in the DC/Baltimore/NOVA area during the weekend of March 24 - 26. Everyone is welcome at the workshops, including UUs from other congregations as well as members of the public. We'll investigate questions such as: What does it mean to be human in a multispecies world, and what is our compassionate response to that understanding? How do we live with the tensions that others are like us, and not like us? How can we love human nature, and all of nature, and hence grow our compassion? How might erasing the line of inherent worth and dignity help us and other life live better? Come participate in the discussion, and find out why a group of UUs across the country is asking if the First Principle should be changed to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every *being*. The leader for all of these workshops is Rev. Dr. LoraKim Joyner, who is a Unitarian Universalist minister, wildlife veterinarian, and certified trainer in Nonviolent Communication. She draws on her 30 years working in Latin America with marginalized people and endangered wildlife and her nearly 20 years working in Unitarian Universalist ministry. She is also an adjunct professor at Meadville Lombard Theological School, where she teaches "Multispecies and Ecological Ministry, Theology, and Justice" as well as "Compassionate Communication."

Details for each of the workshops, including links for additional information and preregistration, are provided below.

Friday, March 24, 7 - 9 pm - **Animals, Our Nature, and UUs: Bringing our Principles to Life**. At the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Sterling, 22135 Davis Drive, Ste 105, Sterling, VA 20164. For more information, contact alsoccio@yahoo.com.

Saturday, March 25, 7 - 10 pm - **How Big is Our Tent? A Conversation on the First Principle Project**. At the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia, Owen Brown Interfaith Center, 7246 Cradlerock Way, Columbia, MD 21045. Sponsored by Creature Connection, UUCC's Animal Ministry. For more information, email creatureconn@uucolumbia.net or call [410-381-0097](tel:410-381-0097).

Sunday, March 26, 12:45 - 2:15 pm - **What is the First Principle Project and Why Should UUs Care?** At River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 6301 River Road, Bethesda, MD 20817. Sponsored by RRUUC's Animal Ministry Task Force. For more information, email leigh.scott1027@gmail.com or call [919-451-8116](tel:919-451-8116). \$15 registration fee includes a vegan lunch. Preregistration is required.

Re-Vision Your Garden for Wildlife: Join us for a Saturday Program to explore How to Support Wildlife Without Giving Up Aesthetics. Come for an hour or the day. Crafts, nature walks and community service hours for kids. There will be exhibits to assist homeowners to make a difference in supporting birds, butterflies and other beneficial insects in our local ecosystem by

choosing native plants in their gardens. Landscape designer, Elisa Meara will offer guidance on designing with native plants within the urban aesthetic. Dan Schwartz, NV Soil and Water CD, will highlight outreach programs and grants available to HOA's and individuals to enhance native habitat. Naturalist, Charles Smith will provide the vision of the potential for our collective gardens to knit together the fabric of native habitats across our region from parks and stream corridors. This is a chance to speak with exhibitors including vendors of native plants and experienced plant experts from Audubon at Home, Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists and Virginia Native Plants Society. Sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. uucf@uucf.org. 703 281-4230