

UU Youth and Young Adult of Color Blog

Pastoral Message, March 2010



Beyond Black and White

By The Rev. Dr. Jonipher Kwong

One of the earliest casualties of 2010 (January 3 to be exact) was a woman by the name of Mary Daly. Daring to challenge the institution of patriarchy within the Catholic Church, she wrote a book called *Beyond God the Father* in 1973, which has since revolutionized and scandalized the religious world. Even though many UUs today will see her work as ‘tame’ or even ‘irrelevant,’ since many of us have moved beyond seeing God as male and even beyond theism, period, Mary Daly was truly ahead of her time by having the audacity to dismantle this deeply-held, dualistic notion of male versus female.

Today, we are far from getting rid of the last vestiges of sexism. We can’t even remove heterosexism from our vocabulary, as evidenced by Prop. 8 in California and other anti-equality legislation. And even though we elected the first African American to the presidency, we certainly can’t say, “We’ve arrived” when it comes to addressing the problem of racism. We are still holding on to the sin or error of dualism, which threatens to keep us apart and blind us to our interrelatedness.

I would like to propose two things to help us move beyond a black and white world. The first is to recognize the fact that we come in many shades of color. In fact, I dare say that we are a rainbow-colored group and not just shades of gray. This was evident for me living in Hawai‘i (appropriately dubbed the ‘Rainbow State’), where race issues clearly are not just black and white. Currently, various Asian ethnic groups have a slight ‘majority’ in the state, but it’s one of the few states where the white population is actually ‘growing’ because of migration from the

