

The Sankofa Project Archives

Concerned about the growing crises with the lack of numbers and positive settlements for ministers of color, primarily men of African descent, Kay Montgomery and Dr. Bill Sinkford called a gathering of clergy and lay leaders (March 31-April 1, 2003 Anti-racism/Anti-oppression Consultation, Union Club, Boston, MA.). It was at this meeting that the idea of an Archive project of people of color was suggested to and well received by the group.

The Sankofa Project Archives, established in 2005 by the Rev. Dr. Michelle Bentley, is a repository for documents, biographical information, sermons and photographic images of Unitarian Universalist Ministers and Laity of Color and Hispanic descent. The Sankofa Archives are both a physical archive and an on-line educational resource serving people at varying educational and research levels. We use a community and oral history model of history gathering. This means that we seek out and welcome stories, images, and material from the community around us. We wish to celebrate the lives, ministries, and accomplishments of Unitarian Universalists: focusing on people who are Native-American, African, African-American, Arab and Middle Eastern, Asian, Caribbean, Hispanic-Latino/a, and multiethnic/multicultural.

Goals of the Sankofa Project Archive: To support, celebrate, promote, educate, and inspire the small but growing number of Unitarian Universalist seminarians and ministers of Color and of Hispanic descent.

- To document/record the hard work in program and curriculum development, theology and praxis, anti-racism/anti-oppression and multiculturalism consultations, dissertations, books, and the ministries - building bridges between Unitarian Universalists and liberal religion around the world.
- To maintain a virtual archive with on-line accessibility for interested youth and scholars from around the world. We celebrate our first Visiting Scholar, The Rev. Shuma Chakravarty, will be at the Archive the fourth week of October, 2007. She will continue to write on the Brahma Somaj, thus strengthening the UU family.

The Sankofa Project Archives is an opportunity for people of all backgrounds to learn, through books, reports, photographs, videos, through oral tradition of stories, and other media the journey of struggle and joy that Unitarian Universalists of Color have endured, and what they have contributed to the conversation and development of Unitarian Universalism, liberal religion, and society in general.

In collaboration with Meadville Lombard Theological School, the UU Funding Panel for Unitarian Universalism, the Department of Ministry, and the support from generous donors like you we continue to celebrate our heritage together.

*To make contributions and for further information, please contact the Sankofa Project Archives:
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Checks made out to Sankofa Archives-Thanks*