

Ignorance, abuse greatest threats

Cape Cod, like much of the rest of the earth, is being stressed by the years of what was ignorant and now is abusive use of her air, lands, and waters. Each one of us is responsible, because each action we take, however seemingly insignificant, when multiplied by thousands, adds to the disease or healing of our earth, our home. Education of all about the consequences of our actions is paramount to changing the patterns.

“Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part” is the

seventh principle of Unitarian Universalism. The Unitarian Church of Barnstable recently formed a Green Sanctuary Committee which is working to build awareness of societal environmental issues among our congregation.

A forum on the Cape Wind Project was held last fall, and another on problems and solutions for water quality in Cape ponds and embayments was held last month. There are “green tips” in newsletters and a table with informative handouts on safer products and methods to use in and around the home in the social hall. We are working toward reducing, reusing, and recycling, and have a “packaging peanuts” recycling program started. And part of this year’s focus in the youth religious education program is on healing the earth.

As informed citizens, we can amend our harmful actions, and petition our elected officials to take responsible action when necessary. If peace begins in each home and in each heart, healing Cape Cod’s environment begins in each home and in each institution.

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